Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-150
Friday
4 August 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-150 *4 August 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief, UAE Official Discuss Island Dispute *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Hizballah-Palestine' Claims Ramat Gan Bomb *[VOL]* 1
Hamas, Islamic Jihad Deny Report *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Reportage Continues on Arrest of Abu-Marzuq 1
Opposition Figures Call For Release *[AL-NAHAR 2 Aug]* 1
Hamas Envoy Discusses Detention *[Omdurman Radio]* 2
Hamas Warns U.S., Israel Over Case *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
U.S. Should Take Threats 'Seriously' *[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 2 Aug]* 3
Family Asks 'Arafat To Intervene *[Jericho VOP]* 4
Hamas Appeals to Jesse Jackson *[AFP]* 4
Al-Husayni: Extradition Request 'Mistake' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Hamas' Nazzal on Abu-Marzuq, PA Elections *[AL-QUDS 1 Aug]* 4
PA Demands Rapid Transfer of Rural Areas *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Aug]* 6
PLO Forces Moved From Iraq to PA Areas *[AL-RA'Y 4 Aug]* 6
Unidentified Aide Cited on Water Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Aug]* 7
Paper: Leaders Must Intervene for Talks Progress *[AL-NAHAR 31 Jul]* 7
Source: Israeli Forces 'Colluded' With Settlers *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Editorial: Israel Must Do More To Stop Settlers *[AL-QUDS 1 Aug]* 8
DFLP, Hamas Officials Trade Recriminations *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Aug]* 9
PFLP-GC Spokesman Reports Israeli Air Raid *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 9
PFLP-GC Attacks 'Arafat's Golan Statements *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 10
'Arafat Congratulates Sarid on Safety *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Gaza Enjoying Construction-Driven 'Economic Boom' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Aug]* 10
World Bank Recommends $90 Million Aid Grant *[Jericho VOP]* 11

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations Continue in Elat *[Jericho VOP]* 11
'Arafat-Peres Meeting Set for 'Next Week' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Water, Electricity Talks Postponed One Week *[Jericho VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Rally Movement To Participate in Sessions *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Kebir Denies FIS Requested To Resume Dialogue *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Aug]* ... 12
Islamic Newsletter on 'Junta,' Paris Bombing *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 2 Aug]* 12

Egypt

Musa Meets Iraqi Counterpart, Discusses Cooperation *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 31 Jul]* 16
Islamic Group To Continue Antiregime Operations *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Aug]* 16
Radio Commentary Warns Iraqi, Sudanese Regimes *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Trade Body Denies Reports on Visit to Baghdad *[MENA]* 18

Mauritania

Opposition Group Critical of Refugee Situation *[Libreville Radio]* 18

Sudan

Official Comments on Mubarak Attack Investigation *[SUNA]* 19
Families in Hala'ib Triangle 'Forced' South *[SUNA]* 19

Western Sahara

Polisario Criticizes 'Provocative' Moroccan Stance *[Algiers Radio]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Russian Foreign Minister Continues Official Visit 20
Says Russia Security Guarantor *[KUNA]* 20
Meets With Amir *[Kuwait Radio]* 20
Holds News Conference *[Kuwait TV]* 21

Qatar

Jordan, Qatar Issue Statement on King's Visit *[Amman Radio]* 21

Saudi Arabia

King Keeps Former Information Minister as Adviser *[Riyadh TV]* 23
New Cabinet Described as 'Move Forward' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Aug]* 23

Yemen

Salih Hopes U.S. Congress' Bosnia Decision Not Vetoed *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Salih Receives Cable From Bosnian President *[Sanaa Radio]* 25

IRAQ

INC Issues Statement on Saddam's 'Amnesty' *[Iraqi National Congress Press Release]* 26
Paper Welcomes Amnesty as Sign of 'New Trend' *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 31 Jul]* 26
Talabani Bans Kurds From Taking Amnesty *[Baghdad TV]* 27
Kurdish Parties Meet, Discuss Plans To End Crisis *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 27
KDP Official on U.S. Initiative, PUK Attacks *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 27
PUK Peshmergas Reportedly Defeat KDP Attack *[Voice of the People]* 29
'Flagrant' U.S. Intervention in North Assailed *[INA]* 29
Opposition Leaders Cited on Damascus Meeting *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Aug]* 30
MKO Reportedly Clashes With Saddam Opponents *[IRNA]* 31
U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN *[INA]* 31
'Real Motives' Behind Clinton 'Hostility' Explained *[Mother of Battles Radio]* 31
Al-Sahhaf Views Regional Ties, Germ Program *[AL-'ARABI 31 Jul]* 32
Ekeus Interviewed on Sanctions, Visit *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Jul]* 35
Mother of Battles Radio Defines Purpose *[Mother of Battles Radio]* 38
German Firms 'Ready' for Projects After Embargo *[INA]* 40
Ministry Reports on Child Fatalities Since 1990 *[INA]* 40
Papers Report on Grain Harvest, Marketing *[AL-THAWRAH 12 Jul]* 40

ISRAEL

Rabin Meets With Settlers, To Meet Again 8 Aug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Settlers End Protests After President's Appeal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Settlers Pray at Jericho Synagogue Despite Ban *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Commander on Dealing With Settler Demonstrations *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Aug]* 42
Six Arrested in Incident Near al-Husayni Home *[Jerusalem TV]* 43
Military Court Sentences 2 Hamas Members *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Official on Meeting of Committee on Israeli Arabs *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 43
Immigration in First Half of 1995 Up 2% *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Aug]* 44
Trade With Egypt Up 162% *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Aug]* 44
Canada Announces End to Arms Embargo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
NEQUDA Press Review for Jul 44

JORDAN

Mother of New York Bombing Suspect Interviewed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 47
Prime Minister: King's Qatar Trip 'Successful' *[Amman Radio]* 47
Paper Comments on King's Visit *[AL-RA'Y 3 Aug]* 48
Parties Merge 'in View of Political Situation' *[JORDAN TIMES 3-4 Aug]* 48
Jordanian-Bosnian Friendship Society Announced *[JORDAN TIMES 3-4 Aug]* 49

SYRIA

Ba'th Official Underlines Position on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Al-Shihabi Views Armed Forces, Peace Process *[AL-BA'TH 31 Jul]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Asks Pakistan To Help Establish Peace *[IRNA]* 55
Pakistan Minister Arrives, Discusses Relations *[Kabul Radio]* 55
Media Said To Escalate Anti-Pakistan Propaganda *[IRNA]* 55
Rabbani, Uzbek Foreign Minister Discuss Relations *[Kabul Radio]* 56
Government Forces Make New Advances in North *[Kabul Radio]* 56

India

Article Addresses 'Strain-Prone' Ties With U.S. *[THE PIONEER 29 Jul]* 57
Reportage, Reaction to Enron Deal Cancellation 58
Maharashtra Government Scraps Project *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Enron Cites 'Strong Legal Defense' *[AFP]* 58
Maharashtra Leaders View 'Scrapping' *[Delhi TV]* 59
Spokesman Cites U.S. 'Concern' *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Opposition Hails Cancellation *[AFP]* 59
Minister Expects No 'Adverse Effect' *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Party Official Expresses 'Concern' *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Rao Visit to Malaysia, Business Prospects Viewed *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Rao Visits Malaysia, Views Enron Deal Situation *[AFP]* 61

Iran

Daily Warns Kurds: U.S. Can Never Be A Reliable Friend *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Jul]* 61
Daily Views Warning to U.S. on Suspect Extradition *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 31 Jul]* 62
UN Assailed for 'Silence' on Bosnian 'Massacre' *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Daily Assails UN Secretary General's Performance *[IRNA]* 63
Daily Urges Muslims To 'Stand Firm' for Bosnia *[IRNA]* 63
Daily Reports 'Large-Scale Changes' for Army *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Aug]* 64
Oil Official Addresses Total, Conoco, Shell Deals *[SALAM 20 Jul]* 65
Bandar 'Abbas Oil Refinery Said in Need of Credit *[ABRAR 27 May]* 66
Article Details Goods Exported Mar-Apr *[ABRAR 7 Jun]* 66

Pakistan

Officials Finds 'Discrepancies' in Military Sales *[THE NEWS 2 Aug]* 67
Minister Meets With Afghan Faction Leader *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Minister Visits Kabul on New Peace Proposals *[Islambad Radio]* 67
Daily Views Minister's Afghan Visit *[THE FRONTIER POST 4 Aug]* 67
Bhutto Addresses 'Defense Requirements' in Speech *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
12 Bullet-Riddled Bodies Found in Karachi Bus *[AFP]* 68
Minister Reaffirms Stand on Karachi 'Terrorists' *[Islamabad TV]* 69
Leaders Comment on Karachi Violence, Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Readiness To Resume Talks With Altaf Group Cited *[Islamabad Radio]* 69

Sri Lanka

President Issues 'Sweeping Constiutional Reforms' *[AFP]* 69
President Explains Proposals To End Conflict 70
'Text' of Speech *[LANKAPUVATH]* 70
President: Rebels 'Unlikely To Accept' *[AFP]* 73
Buddhist Clergy Opposes Reforms *[AFP]* 74

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief, UAE Official Discuss Island Dispute

NC0208145595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Shaykh Khalid al-Qasimi, heir apparent of Ra's al-Khaymah, an emirate of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], who is currently visiting Cairo.

After the meeting, Shaykh al-Qasimi stated that he had reviewed with the secretary general the developments regarding the issue of the three UAE islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa—which are occupied by Iran.

He affirmed the importance of the Arab League's role and of united Arab action in returning the three islands to the UAE.

He said his visit to Egypt falls within the framework of the sincere relations between Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and President Husni Mubarak and the peoples of the two countries.

He also praised the Egyptian and Arab roles in upholding the UAE's right to regain these islands.

The Ra's al-Khaymah heir apparent said that he conveyed to the Arab League secretary general an oral message from Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan containing an expression of thanks and appreciation to the Arab League for its continuous efforts to support Arab issues, particularly Iran's occupation of the three UAE islands.

Replying to a question on whether the UAE had taken any new action to resolve the islands issue, al-Nu'aymi [as received] said that the UAE's action is currently focused on direct contact with Iran through the foreign ministries of the two countries. He expressed his hope that a peaceful solution to this issue will be found.

He clarified that if the two sides cannot agree, the UAE will refer the case to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. He noted the importance of the Arab League's role in supporting the UAE stance and seeking a peaceful solution, because this issue is one of Arab rights.

On the other hand, Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international issues, met with Shaykh Khalid al-Qasimi and discussed Iran's occupation of the UAE islands and the Arab League stance on this issue.

After the meeting, Ambassador 'Imran highlighted the importance of the Arab League's role and said that it will offer the UAE full support in regaining all its rights. This would help to preserve the cordial and neighborly relations between Iran and the Arab countries.

Palestinian Affairs

'Hizballah-Palestine' Claims Ramat Gan Bomb

NC0208181795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An unidentified person has contacted the AFP office in Beirut and said that Hizballah-Palestine was responsible for the suicide operation that targeted an Israeli bus near Tel Aviv and resulted in the death of six persons.

The caller said that the person who carried out the operation was Jamal Fayiz al-Yusuf, a member of the Muhammad al-Khawajah group.

Hizballah-Palestine is a dissident underground organization that broke away from the Fathi al-Shaqaqi-led Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. The organization has not claimed responsibility for any operations in Lebanon for two years.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Deny Report

JN0208144195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1135 GMT 2 Aug 95

[From "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad leaders have denied a REUTER report this morning on the existence of an organization called Hizballah-Palestine, which REUTER said claimed responsibility for the Ramat Gan operation. Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders said Jamal al-Yusuf, whose name was cited by REUTER as the executor of the Ramat Gan operation, was martyred a long time ago.

Reportage Continues on Arrest of Abu-Marzuq

Opposition Figures Call For Release

TA0208150495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Aug 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by Hisam al-Qadah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus — Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, one of the Palestinian figures opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian talks, said the United States' recent detention of Musa Abu-Marzuq was coordinated with the initiators of the Oslo accord in a bid to silence the voice of the Palestinian opposition. He said this development exposes the falsehood of the accord.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Maliki added: We view these attempts, whatever their source, with disdain. They serve only the Israeli side and add a new measure to the file of U.S. measures against the Palestinian people.

Al-Maliki called on the United States to apologize to Abu-Marzuq and to the Palestinian people for his detention and to allow him to remain on U.S. soil in complete freedom.

For his part, Bassam al-Shak'ah, secretary of the Palestinian Grouping in the West Bank, said Abu-Marzuq's detention exposes the United States' false claims that it is an intermediary, a peace advocate, and a democratic country. He added that this act indicates that the United States still supports Israel's official, daily terrorism. Al-Shak'ah said the voices condemning the U.S. measures against Abu-Marzuq must grow louder in all arenas. He said Abu-Marzuq should be released and should not be harassed.

Hamas Envoy Discusses Detention

EA0308202095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1335 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Report on interview with Munir Sa'id, Hamas representative in Sudan, by Khalid Mustafa al-Makki; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] We now bring you the remaining part of today's news events and we focus on the United States, where the authorities are still holding Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of the politburo of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. No charges have been brought against him. A number of Arab and Muslim protests have been made about Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq's detention on the grounds that the U.S. action contravened humanitarian norms and rules.

Our colleague, Khalid Mustafa al-Makki, asked Mr. Munir Sa'id, the Hamas representative in Sudan, about the detention of Dr. Abu-Marzuq on 25 July:

[Begin recording] [Munir Sa'id] The chairman of the Hamas politburo, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, was on a personal visit to the United States to meet his family, while carrying a U.S. green card.

He has no problem with [word indistinct] the U.S. Government. Indeed, the fact the doctor was arrested and is being held without being charged with any offense indicates that the United States is conniving with the Israeli enemy to keep him detained.

Dr. Musa supports the movement's political views regarding the ongoing process of normalization between Arabs and Israelis, and therefore we think that what is happening is a response to an Israeli request and pressure exerted by the Zionist lobby in the United States to bring trumped-up charges, which are currently being prepared in Israeli courts, against Abu-Marzuq.

Up to now the U.S. Government has kept quiet about the details of Abu—Marzuq's detention. Indeed, we still hope the U.S. Government has considered the fact that the issue poses a danger to international stability and security, because Hamas will not deal with the issue negatively but positively, and will work seriously with all proposed options which [word indistinct] the U.S. stand.

[Al-Makki] Mr. Munir Sa'id said the Israeli enemy authorities have asked for Dr. Abu-Marzuq to be handed over to them. This proves that the Israelis had a hand in what happened to him. Could you comment on speculation that Israel was involved in this step by the U.S. authorities?

[Munir Sa'id] From the moment Dr. Abu-Marzuq was detained, and during the first two days of his detention, a joint Israeli-American team listened for over 30 hours to legal experts from both countries in order to prepare trumped-up charges that could be brought against him. Thereafter, the Israeli Government decided to ask for Abu-Marzuq to be handed over, because they had fabricated his involvement in terrorist operations.

We stress that Dr. Abu-Marzuq is exercising the normal right of a people to resist occupation, to block the Zionist enemy, and to liberate their land. This is a religious and national obligation. He is not practicing terrorism, even by the Western conception of the term. [end recording]

Hamas Warns U.S., Israel Over Case

JN0208172895 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic GMT 1645 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued a statement after the Zionists announced they will submit a request to the U.S. Administration to extradite Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist entity.

The statement reads: In a step which was not ruled out, the Zionist authorities on Monday [31 July] submitted a request to the U.S. Administration to extradite Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Movement's Political Bureau, who has been apprehended in the United States since 25 July 1995.

Despite its seriousness, the Zionist step is no more than an attempt to distort the proceedings of this case. Moreover, the enemy prime minister seeks to close the ranks of his disintegrated party and to restore his

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

popularity which collapsed in the wake of the painful blows that discredited his extensive talk about the alleged security and stability inside his entity.

In its statement, Hamas added: Any Zionist attempt to move this case out of track, in its capacity as a political case, and find alleged legal covers for it will be doomed to failure because the international community is now aware of the fact that this detention and arrest were conducted for sheer political purposes and that they have nothing to do with any violations of law. No evidence has been given to confirm these violations.

Terrorist Rabin is well aware that the Hamas Movement can sufficiently reply to any step of this kind which may harm its political leaders. The Zionist authorities' risky direct interference in the crisis clearly means serious escalation in the confrontation. This will have devastating consequences which are well known by the entity's leaders, the statement said.

U.S. Should Take Threats 'Seriously'

MM0308114595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Aug 95 p11

[Editorial: "Clinton and the Mistake of Handing Over the Hamas Leader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We cannot fathom the reason that prompted Musa Abu-Marzuq, chief of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, to go to the United States of America. But we can defintely predict what will happen if the U.S. Administration were to try to hand him over to Israel.

Abu-Marzuq, who heads a political bureau and who lived for scores of years in the United States, committed a grave error in believing all that is said and disseminated about American democracy and protection of human rights. He went to Washington believing that he would be treated like any other ordinary citizen having the right to enter and reside in the United States because he is married to an American lady and because he holds a Green Card, which gives him the right to work and to reside permanently in the United States.

He should not have failed to realize that American foreign policy is formulated in Tel Aviv and not in Washington and that Israel's security and stability occupy first place in the list of American prioritie. Because of this, America's democracy and America's principles retract in the face of these considerations, particularly when what is wanted is the handing over of a Palestinian Muslim leader whose movement opposes a settlement, which the United States is trying to impose, by force, on the Palestinian Arab people.

If we concede that the adventure which Abu-Marzuq embarked upon by trying to enter the United States through its legitimate gates was some sort of unsuccessful political interpretation of things, any attempt on the part of the United States to hand him over to Israel not only does not have any legal grounds or ethical basis but also constitutes an extremely expensive miscalculation.

The U.S. Administration, which has suffered much from Middle Eastern waves of violence against its interests and citizens over the past 50 years by virtue of running blindly behind the aggressive Israeli policies, should take seriously Hamas' threats of revenge, and should refrain from taking any step to hand the Hamas movement's leader over to Israel, particularly as the latter has no legal basis for demanding this right.

This man has not participated in any military action and practices political activity in broad daylight, just like Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army [IRA], whom U.S. President Bill Clinton received at the White House despite all the British warnings. It is a well-known fact that the IRA has committed acts of terrorism against the British armed forces in Belfast and indeed carried its bombing operations into the heart of the British capital.

We do not mean by this that President Clinton should receive Abu-Marzuq at the White House, as he has done with the leader of the opposition Irish movement Sinn Fein, whose military arm is the IRA. We only mean that he should not hand him over to the State of Israel, which is allocated a full chapter in all annual reports issued by international human rights organizations, speaking of its torture of political strugglers and its detention of thousands of people in solitary confinement cells without trial.

The U.S. Administration will be reopening the dossier of violence and kidnapping in the Arab region and will be crossing red lines if it were to hand Abu-Marzuq over to Israel, for it would push Hamas into abandoning the course it has adhered to until now, namely, not to carry out any military operations outside occupied Palestine.

We hope that the U.S. Administration will remember some of the chapters of its experience in Lebanon with the Islamic resistance movements when it sent its forces there, and what followed in terms of suicide operations and the taking of American citizens as hostages. Abu-Marzuq is not such a dangerous man as to justify such a high price for handing him over to Israel.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Family Asks 'Arafat To Intervene

JN0308113095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat today received a delegation of the family of Musa Abu-Marzuq [head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas] at the Presidency in Gaza. The delegation asked President 'Arafat to intervene to bring about the release of its son Abu-Marzuq, who has been held in custody in the United States for several days.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat, has stated that the National Authority has held intensive contacts with the U.S. Government to bring about the extradition of Abu-Marzuq to any Arab state.

Hamas Appeals to Jesse Jackson

NC0308164495 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Aug 3 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) appealed to former U.S. presidential candidate Jesse Jackson on Thursday [3 August] to help free one of its chief activists threatened with extradition from the United States.

The appeal for help to obtain the release of Musa Abu-Marzuq, 44, whose extradition Israel requested on Tuesday after his arrest upon arrival in the United States last week, came in a statement sent to AFP in Damascus.

"We hope that you will intervene with the U.S. Administration to have Abu-Marzuq freed and authorised to leave the United States for a country of his choice," the militant fundamentalist group wrote to Jackson.

"The continuing detention of Abu-Marzuk is aimed at allowing outside parties, particularly the Zionist authorities, to fabricate accusations," Hamas said.

"We express our deep concern in the light of the U.S. Administration's silence and dithering, which have provoked anger in the Arab and Islamic world and which could have negative consequences," the statement added.

Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority on Thursday urged the United States to expel Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of Hamas and dubbed the group's "foreign minister," to an Arab country, not Israel.

Israel has requested his extradition, alleging he is one of the masterminds of terror attacks on Jews.

In New York, Abu-Marzuq's lawyer said Wednesday that negotiations were under way between U.S. immigration authorities and his client and a decision should be taken within a week on whether to expel him, probably to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from where he set out.

Hamas, which spearheads armed resistance to Israeli occupation and the PLO autonomy deal, has threatened reprisals against U.S. interests if he is extradited to Israel.

Al-Husayni: Extradition Request 'Mistake'

TA0308055195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni urges the Israeli Government to disarm the settlers who oppose the peace process. Al- Husayni told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that if the settlers are disarmed, this will ease the negotiations.

Al-Husayni believes that Israel's request to have Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq extradited is a mistake. He claims that the Palestinians have no problem with Israel's negotiating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], as long as it informs the Palestinian Authority about this.

Hamas' Nazzal on Abu-Marzuq, PA Elections

TA0208180995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Aug 95 p 6

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, member of the Hamas Political Bureau, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-QUDS] Let us first discuss the Ramat Gan operation. Several contradictory statements have been issued about Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] responsibility for this operation. Is Hamas really responsible?

[Nazzal] I can neither confirm nor deny Hamas' responsibility for this operation. So far, I have received no official information confirming or refuting Hamas' responsibility.

[AL-QUDS] It is believed that this operation falls within the context of internal conflicts between the hardline faction represented by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions and the moderate one represented by the inside political leadership. What is your comment?

[Nazzal] I believe that talk about hardline and moderate factions within Hamas is part of the media distortion being waged by some quarters. There is no hardline or moderate faction. There are different views within a large movement such as Hamas, but this does not mean there are two factions. Consultative institutions of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

movement ultimately decide its policies by a majority decision.

[AL-QUDS] How do you interpret the fact that the Palestinian Authority [PA] did not take any measures against Hamas' elements and cadres in the Gaza Strip in the wake of this operation?

[Nazzal] On the contrary, the PA launched a campaign of detentions against many Hamas' cadres and elements in the Gaza Strip a few days ago. In my opinion, this campaign is part of the Palestinian response to the Israeli demand to carry out security missions to safeguard Israel's security. The proof of this is that Hamas did not claim responsibility for what happened. Nevertheless, the campaign of detentions was launched. Here, I ask: What is the justification for this campaign? There is definitely no justification. Your remark that the PA did not launch a campaign of detentions against Hamas is incorrect. What has happened is completely the opposite.

[AL-QUDS] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Political Bureau, was detained by the FBI. Why did he travel to the United States, and what are the charges against him?

[Nazzal] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq holds permanent residency, called a Green Card [last two words in English], because he received his Ph.D. in the United States. His visit was routine and purely private. He was unexpectedly detained by the FBI. To date, the charge against him is violation of the immigration laws, but as far as we know there has not been any violation of U.S. laws. He entered legally. In my opinion, he was detained for political reasons and not as has been stated.

[AL-QUDS] The PA has invited Abu-Marzuq to reside in Gaza. How do you view and assess this step by the PA?

[Nazzal] I do not believe that Abu-Marzuq's problem is finding a suitable place to live. There are many countries in which he can reside. I believe this welcome by the PA is part of a propaganda campaign, because the PA, at the same time, asked the Jordanian Government to expel Dr. Abu-Marzuq. Moreover, the PA welcomes him while detaining Hamas elements. I say this welcome is obvious and insincere.

[AL-QUDS] The Israeli authorities have demanded Abu-Marzuq's extradition. How will you respond if he is extradited to Israel?

[Nazzal] This issue is premature.

[AL-QUDS] The Hamas leadership has called for the release of Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, who has been detained by the PA. What is the story of his detention?

[Nazzal] The PA detained Dr. al-Zahhar and other Hamas leaders, such as Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, Sayyid Abu-Musamih, and Shaykh Salamah al-Safadi. It detained Shaykh Abu-Musamih because he is editor in chief of AL-WATAN newspaper. As for the rest, including Dr. al-Zahhar, no charges have been filed against them. We demand the release of all the detainees, because these detentions are arbitrary and unfounded.

[AL-QUDS] There is talk now about Palestinian elections. What is Hamas' stance on these elections and will you participate in them?

[Nazzal] It is premature to talk about Hamas' participation in these elections, because the nature of the elections remains unclear. We will adopt a final stance on elections after the details and nature of the elections become clear.

[AL-QUDS] The Palestinian-Israeli talks are still going on. How do you see their outcome and what will they achieve?

[Nazzal] We believe there are no real negotiations but rather Israeli dictates to the Palestinian side. The Palestinian side rejects those dictates for a few days and then, as we are always surprised to see, complies with the demands. We believe these negotiations are not serious.

[AL-QUDS] As an organization that belongs to the 10-faction Palestinian Alliance, what has this group achieved and how do you see its future?

[Nazzal] The alliance of the 10 factions still exists, despite the criticism leveled at it sometimes in terms of the activity of the factions within this group. We have always called for activating the 10 factions. I believe the current situation requires that such an alliance continue, because it expresses the positions of a large political spectrum in the Palestinian street.

[AL-QUDS] Bassam al-Shak'ah recently set up a new organization that includes all 10 factions except Hamas. Why has Hamas not joined the Palestinian National Grouping?

[Nazzal] We have repeatedly said that we are not against any Palestinian effort to confront the occupation. We welcome any effort that achieves this objective, but with regard to the Palestinian Grouping established by Bassam al-Shak'ah, we told him that the current situation does not allow Hamas to join this grouping. This is due to technical reasons that concern Hamas and which prevent it from joining the grouping.

[AL-QUDS] Does this mean you will join the Palestinian Grouping in the future?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Nazzal] I cannot discuss the future, but when we see that conditions are suitable, we might join.

[AL-QUDS] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi conducted intensive efforts to mend the rift between the PA and Hamas, fearing a military confrontation. He invited the two sides to Khartoum to engage in a dialogue. What has hindered the dialogue?

[Nazzal] For our part, we expressed readiness to participate in the dialogue, but the other party did not do the same. On the contrary, it escalated its campaign against Hamas and, consequently, abolished any basis for dialogue. We in Hamas demand the release of all detainees in Palestinian prisons before launching a dialogue with the PA.

[AL-QUDS] There has been talk about a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel. What is your comment?

[Nazzal] Talk of a cease-fire or other things is premature. It is not possible to answer hypothetical questions. At the moment, we are at the stage of resisting the occupation. Resistance is tied to the end of the occupation and the liberation of the land, and we will continue to resist until the occupation ends.

PA Demands Rapid Transfer of Rural Areas

TA0308083995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Lamia Lahoud and David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinians want the transfer of control of unspecified rural areas and intercity roads in the territories to begin immediately after the Palestinian self-rule council is elected later this year, Maj.-Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al- Yahya, co-chair of the Palestinian security committee said yesterday.

In contrast, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that transferring security control of non-municipal areas would only occur by mid-1997. Israeli officials have given the impression that the timetable for the second phase of the pullback had already been reached, but this apparently has not been the case. The first phase of the pullback will begin this fall when Israel redeploys away from at least six Palestinian cities.

There is speculation that Palestinians want the second phase of the pullback to begin more than a full year earlier than Israel does, due to fear that Labor may not be re-elected in November, 1996.

"The agreement should lead to full Palestinian jurisdiction in the territories except for issues of the final status like settlements, and agreed upon Israeli military installations," al-Yahya said.

Another difference in the security discussions was the issue of Hebron. Israel and the Palestinians remained at odds on the division of authority there.

According to al-Yahya, Israel is still refusing to redeploy from the city center and nearby Halhul. It wants the deployment in Hebron of uniformed, unarmed Palestinian inspectors before Palestinian elections are held, while Israel remains in control of all security responsibilities.

Al-Yahya said Israel is ready to make a symbolic redeployment in the Hebron area, but did not elaborate. The Palestinians want the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to redeploy from Hebron, and they also want Arab shops closed by the IDF for security reasons to be reopened, so the city can return to normal life.

Security arrangements for Bethlehem and Ramallah have also not been completed, said Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Services in Jericho and the territories.

Israel has said that it will remain on main roads in those cities until bypass roads are built.

Al-Yahya stressed that this time the PA [Palestinian Authority] will insist on reaching agreement on all issues before signing and will not leave some issues for negotiations at a later stage as they did in last year's Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Although the talks are difficult, al-Yahya said they are better than the talks which led to the Cairo agreement, because both sides know each other's position and are working seriously on ironing out differences.

Israeli officials have refused to characterize the talks, except to say there has not been much progress.

Officials did announce that perhaps up to half of the 130-140 negotiators in Elat might be going home, so negotiating sessions would be less unwieldy.

PLO Forces Moved From Iraq to PA Areas

JN0408104295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO has completed the withdrawal of its al-Aqsa forces, which have been stationed on Iraqi territory since the PLO's departure from Beirut in 1982.

A senior Palestinian diplomatic source has asserted to AL-RA'Y that approximately 1,500 officers and soldiers from the al-Aqsa forces, along with their families, have actually arrived in batches in the Palestinian National

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Authority [PA] areas in Gaza and Jericho and also in areas in the occupied West Bank across Jordanian territory.

The Palestinian source lauded the efforts the Jordanian Government is exerting in this regard. He pointed out that approximately 2,000 men, mostly from Jordan, are ready to enter the West Bank after an agreement on redeployment is implemented.

These sources [as published] asserted that approximately 20,000 Palestinian policemen will deploy in the Palestinian cities and townships from which the Israeli forces will withdraw after the second Oslo agreement on the West Bank is signed and implemented.

In another development, these sources said President 'Arafat is holding consultations on new appointments in the Palestinian police command. They expected that Major General Nasr Yusuf will be appointed commander of the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Unidentified Aide Cited on Water Issues

MM0208133695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 95 p 5

[Report on statement by unidentified Palestinian official by Mohammed 'Allam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — A responsible Palestinian official has stated to AL-HAYAH in Cairo that Israel still wants to have the upper hand in the management of water affairs and to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to control their own water resources. He added that the obstacle impeding the current negotiations with the Israelis in this regard lies in the attempt by the Palestinian negotiators not to repeat the error of granting Israel the right to control the water resources in the Gaza Strip and the relinquishment of this [Palestinian] right as happened in the Oslo Accord, a fact which has caused Gaza to suffer from unhygenic water and shortage of water, while 4,000 settlers enjoy bigger quantities of clean water.

He pointed out that "according to international reports, the Gaza Strip's share of water has dropped to 10 million cubic meters annually while it was 20 million cubic meters prior to the implementation of autonomous rule."

He added: "Israel wants to dominate the West Bank and secure all its water needs to serve its economy and industrial and agricultural projects with unreasonable quantities of water and at favorable reduced prices to the settlers." He warned against the repetition of the Oslo error "which, if repeated, will lead to drought in the coming stage." He pointed out that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were now living below the line of water sufficiency. He also pointed out that the Israeli settler gets 600 million cubic meters of water annually at a cost of $0.6 per cubic meter while the Palestinian citizen gets only 120 [as published] cubic meters at $1.6 per cubic meter.

The responsible Palestinian source disclosed that the Israeli side wants to secure a Palestinian deed that authorizes the settlers to dig up to 500 meters below the surface of the land in search of subterranean water, at a time when there are no water networks in over 50 percent of the Palestinian territories.

He added that the settlers have been squandering water and have been building swimming pools at a time when the Palestinians cannot find enough water for irrigation or clean water for drinking. He pointed out that successive Israeli governments have destroyed water pumps owned by Palestinian farmers, which were used in pumping water from the river Jordan, and destroyed irrigation canals, which adversely affected Palestinian agriculture. He added: "It seems that Israel wants to continue its water policies in other forms with Palestinian approval."

He pointed out that one of the obstacles facing the negotiations over the water was the [Israeli] attempt to break the link between the water network in some parts of the West Bank and the Israeli water network, pointing out that one of the results of Israel's pumping water for the benefit of its settlements in the West Bank has been a fall of the level of subterranean waters and the drop in the ratio of water available for irrigation thus preventing the cultivation of over 50 percent of arable land.

He added: "The Israelis are trying in practice to continue with the Israeli Mekort [as transliterated] Company's monopoly of well-sinking and of charging very inflated prices."

Paper: Leaders Must Intervene for Talks Progress

TA3107113195 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 31 Jul 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Rabin's Dates and the Dues of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was the first to declare that there are no sacred dates and deadlines for concluding the talks with the Palestinians. Rabin said this without realizing that the time factor is very precious, that there are parties on both sides who seek to undermine the peace process, that all these parties need is time, and that Israeli procrastination gives them their chance to derail the process. Perhaps what Rabin meant is that he can extract more concessions from the Palestinians because of their

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

desire to conclude the talks as soon as possible. This approach is pure blackmail. Rabin has also forgotten that this method of conduct makes the agreement susceptible to endless perils.

The Palestinians have grasped the Israeli game and, for their part, have begun saying that the important thing is not the time factor but substance — namely, the Palestinian principles, which we cannot relinquish. In order to implement the second part of the Oslo accord, the Israeli army must redeploy outside Palestinian populated areas. This is a basic condition for holding Palestinian elections. The Palestinian-Israeli talks were resumed yesterday in Elat, and despite pessimism about the chances of bridging the gap between the two sides, there is resolve to continue the talks. This commitment to the talks stems from the conviction of both sides that there is no alternative to negotiations, because the collapse of the talks would be a tragedy for all the people of the region.

There is consensus on the need to hold a Palestinian-Israeli summit in order to overcome those obstacles that require a political decision. Only Rabin himself on the Israeli side and President 'Arafat on the Palestinian can resolve the pending disputes. Egyptian diplomacy is trying hard to arrange such a summit, but sufficient preparations must first be made to ensure its success. President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria is proof of the need for such preparations. 'Arafat and Peres emerged from their meeting to announce the success of the talks, while later it became apparent that no concrete and significant results were achieved because Rabin's fingerprint must appear on every decision. This was confirmed by the chief Israeli negotiator in previous rounds of negotiations.

Peres knows how to formulate ambiguous plans and decisions acceptable to both sides, but they cannot be implemented. Formulating plans is not as important as ensuring their implementation in the field. For example, Peres objects to addressing the issue of the settlers and the need to deter them from continuing their attacks on the land and the inhabitants. Moreover, he refuses to adopt a clear decision on the release of Palestinian prisoners despite his awareness that continuing to make decisions that cannot be implemented spreads a feeling of despair and frustration among the two peoples and aggravates the situation in the Palestinian-Israeli arena.

The venue of the talks is not important. They began in Zikhron Ya'aqov, moved to the Dead Sea, and are being held today in Elat. The important thing is the extent to which Israel is ready to address the dues of peace in a positive spirit that will convince the Palestinians that it will not yield to the extremists and will pursue this path. The Palestinians hope Israel will show greater flexibility in the talks. They believe that Israel is responsible for the impasse in the talks and that deadlock or failure in the talks can be attributed only to Israel. If we are committed to the requirements of peace, Israel must also be committed.

In this difficult stage of the talks, what is required is speedy progress and the adoption of serious, practical steps to achieve concrete progress on all levels and overcome the current crisis.

Source: Israeli Forces 'Colluded' With Settlers

JN0108142095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Culture and Information has commented on extremist settlers, who are building two settlements on the lands of the village of al-Khidr and near the city of al-Birah. He said that the settlers would not have breached the law, tried to step up the conflict, and endangered peace if the Israeli occupation forces had not colluded with these settlers.

The source held the Israeli Government responsible for the explosion of the situation, and urged it to take a firm position against extremist settlers, who are trying to seize Palestinian lands and establish settlements on them.

Editorial: Israel Must Do More To Stop Settlers

TA0208184695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The Settlers and Their Antipeace Activities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The settlers' assault in many West Bank locations and in Jerusalem itself is continuing. Their provocative activities, especially in al-Khidr, are intensifying despite the Israeli authorities' efforts to remove the tents and temporary homes set up by the settlers on one of the village's hills within the framework of what they call the battle "for the land of Israel."

The settlers, who are backed by various right-wing and extremist forces, have launched their assault on numerous fronts. In addition to al-Khidr, their provocative activities are continuing in Jerusalem. Their harassment of Arab institutions in Jerusalem, especially Orient House, headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, is intensifying. They intimidate, threaten, and attack any Arab who happens to be in the neighborhood, while the Israeli authorities do nothing to put an end to these continuous provocative actions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The settlers' aim is not just to break the law by establishing a settlement extension here or there but to undermine the peace process by every means and put an end to the efforts aimed at implementing the second part of the Oslo Declaration, especially expansion of the Palestinian National Authority's area to the West Bank. This endangers their dreams of seizing more Arab land and establishing more settlements on it.

Thus, the Israeli authorities' step in removing hundreds of settlers from one of the hills around al-Khidr which they occupied over the past 10 days is a step in the right direction, although not necessarily enough. The Israeli side must put an end to the various provocative activities, especially those in Jerusalem, because the continuation of these manifestations and actions will raise more than a question about the credibility of the peace process should the settlement offensive, backed by the extremist Israeli right wing, continue. This group does not conceal its known objectives of halting the peace process and turning back the hands of the clock.

DFLP, Hamas Officials Trade Recriminations

MM0308151295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "DFLP and Hamas Meet To Overcome Differences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH — Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that a meeting was held recently between the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) at the DFLP office to resolve some outstanding issues and surmount differences between them.

They said that the meeting was attended by Hamas Political Bureau Member 'Imad al-'Alami, Hamas representative in Damascus Abu- Muhammad Mustafa, and DFLP Information Official Dawud Talhami.

The sources said that the Hamas representatives accused the DFLP of "joining the administrative autonomy Authority and of trying to take advantage of the efforts of the Hamas mujahidin. The DFLP representatives mentioned the possibilities resulting from the recent dialogue with the Authority and the attempt by a Hamas member to assassinate a DFLP official inside [the territories]." They added that the DFLP leadership blames Hamas for trying to coordinate with it only in times of need but refusing to form a field leadership at home, of reactivating the alliance abroad when it needs outside cover, and claimed that Hamas does not join it on the same list in all elections.

In another development, the unified leadership of the DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by Dr. George Habash, has found it strange that "some autonomy Authority symbols are raising the issue of al-Himmah or the Palestinian Golan."

In a statement issued in Damascus yesterday, it said that "the Israeli reaction" to such Palestinian talk as expressed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres "is evidence of the harm done to the interests of the Palestinian and Syrian peoples."

PFLP-GC Spokesman Reports Israeli Air Raid

JN0208165795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the Zionist air raids on the positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], a military spokesman has stated the following:

Despite all the policies that are hostile to our people's aspirations and objectives, and at a time when the parties to the Oslo conspiracy are trying to tighten the grip on our revolution and mujahidin, our revolutionaries are proving that the language of armed struggle, which extends from southern Lebanon to Ramat Gan, is the only language that expresses the objectives of our people and nation.

Given the enemy's realization that the 'Arafatist policy, which is isolated by the masses, will not provide the enemy with security and stability, the enemy frequently launches military attacks on our positions. By so doing, the enemy imagines that it can raise the morale of the Zionists who are deluded by the 'Arafat-Rabin peace.

As part of the open confrontation with the enemy, three formations of Zionist enemy aircraft raided our positions in the area of al-Sultan Ya'qub in Lebanon at 1100 today, Wednesday, 2 August 1995.

The enemy aircraft dropped 25 heavy rockets on our positions. Another formation later dropped several medium rockets, including a number of time rockets, in order to inflict as many casualties as possible. The enemy also used incendiary phosphorus bombs for the same purpose. The air raids on the PFLP-GC positions inflicted some material damage. There were no casualties among our fighters.

Stemming from our faith in the justice of our sacred cause, we in the PFLP-GC will continue the path of jihad and struggle. We pledge to God and to the masses of our nation to continue the path of sacrifice. We will not be weakened by the conspiracies of the deviant

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Arafatist policy or those of other capitulationists and traitors who joined the Zionist enemy and became policemen controlled by the enemy's staff and leaders.

We are confident in the future regardless of the circumstances and conspiracies against our revolution, people, and nation. Together on the path of liberating land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

PFLP-GC Attacks 'Arafat's Golan Statements

JN0208170995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to 'Arafat's statements on the so-called Palestinian Golan, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] spokesman has stressed that 'Arafat's statement was made at a time when Syria is fighting a battle to regain every grain of soil occupied in 1967. This statement reflects a Zionist attitude which is stronger than that displayed by even the hardline Zionists. It provides the Zionists — through an advance coordination with them — the chance to maneuver and exercise extortion to weaken the Syrian position in the negotiations.

The PFLP-GC spokesman adds: 'Arafat has relinquished all the land of Palestine that was occupied in 1948, relinquished more than 80 percent of the territory occupied in 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza, and was appointed a mere administrative officer of 18 percent of that territory without any sovereignty, as was stated by Peres. After all that, 'Arafat is now talking about a Palestinian part of the Golan, some square kilometers in al-Hammah area. Syria had preserved the Arab character of that area and prevented the Zionist enemy from seizing it in 1948. Syria has always been unionist and pan-Arabist and a defender of the nation's causes.

'Arafat Congratulates Sarid on Safety

JN0308201895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today telephoned Yosi Sarid, Israeli Minister of Environmental Protection, and congratulated him on his safety from an extremist settlers' attempt to attack him.

President Yasir 'Arafat also received U.S. Consul General Edward Ebington today. During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Gaza Enjoying Construction-Driven 'Economic Boom'

TA0308141295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza is enjoying a construction-driven economic boom that has created 25,000 jobs and $500 million in locally-raised investments.

"Gaza is enjoying an economic boom on account of that," Palestinian Authority [PA] Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th said this week.

More funds have poured into Gaza from the donor countries during the past six months than in the previous year, bringing the total to $520m. However, Sha'th said this is still only a third of the promised $1.4 billion over 1994-95.

Sha'th told THE JERUSALEM POST Tuesday [1 August] that one problem was the failure of the Norwegian Holst Fund to provide funds to cover the estimated $136m [million] PA budget deficit over the past 45 days. The fund had been providing $20m a month for public service employee salaries. Sha'th said he did know the reason for this, but the PA had succeeded in preventing a sharp increase in the deficit by cutting spending.

Norway, which chairs an international consortium of donors for aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, said cooperation between the PA, Israel, and donors had reduced the deficit, but the final size would depend on further economic and political developments this year.

"We are impressed by the Palestinian administration and especially the Ministry of Finance," Jan Egeland, state secretary in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry told REUTERS. He cited reports from the PA and the World Bank.

Peace Watch yesterday quoted Palestinian banking sources as saying the PA has borrowed $30m from Palestinian banks to cover payroll and other running expenses.

Sha'th defended Arab banks which have been sharply criticized for soaking up deposits and taking the money abroad. "If we had forced the banks (not to take money abroad), it would have created panic. Now, however, they are coming back," he said.

Sha'th attributed the turnaround in Gaza's economic fortunes to the "strict way we have applied the security regimen since Bet Lid," the double-suicide bombing which killed 21 soldiers in January. This created a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

climate of security without a feeling of authoritarian rule, he said.

Other factors include the absence of currency controls, and a private investment law which has provided legal clarity for investors.

The boom has been created by the widespread building activity, mostly in the public sector, which has drawn along many housing-related industries such as furniture, plumbing fixtures, glass, and aluminum frame workshops.

Despite the apparent economic improvements, which have been considered the key to Yasir 'Arafat's political stability in Gaza, 'Arafat's popularity has dropped sharply in Gaza over the past three months, according to polls.

Sha'th said this was true, but temporary, attributing it mainly to the failure to advance on the release of security prisoners. He said that on talk shows broadcast by Palestinian radio and television "70 percent of the questions were about prisoners."

World Bank Recommends $90 Million Aid Grant

JN0308151695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The World Bank's Board of Directors has recommended granting $90 million in additional aid to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This amount of aid is intended to cover the deficit in the aid fund run by the international development organization in Gaza.

Moreover, the World Bank decided to expand the fund's scope of work to include activities in the West Bank in addition to its activities in Gaza.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations Continue in Elat

JN0108134995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the application of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles continued in Elat today for the third consecutive day. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Elat negotiations, has stated that the talks, which will last until Friday, cover all pending issues and that at the end of this week, the two sides would consult their political leaderships. The next round of negotiations is scheduled to begin on Monday.

It is worth noting that the negotiations are tackling the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank, the legislative elections, the release of the Palestinian prisoners held in occupation jails, and water rights.

'Arafat-Peres Meeting Set for 'Next Week'

TA0308152695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will apparently meet next week. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. The two men will try to make progress in the negotiations on expanding the autonomy. This afternoon, the talks in Elat reportedly hit a deadlock on the water and electricity issues. The talks in Elat will continue until tomorrow morning and are scheduled to resume on 7 August.

Water, Electricity Talks Postponed One Week

JN0308115895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources have said that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have decided to halt the negotiations conducted by the electricity and water committees until early next week, because no progress has been made in the talks held by these two committees.

In a separate development, Israeli sources have reported big differences on basic issues related to the redeployment and the responsibility for security in the villages and main roads of the West Bank. The sources added that progress has been made in the economic talks regarding the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Rally Movement To Participate in Sessions

LD0308192395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rally for Culture and Democracy has decided to take part in the forthcoming meetings with the state presidency, according to a statement from the rally that the radio received today.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy, after recalling the invitation extended to it by the presidency to participate in the working sessions, explained that it would make proposals regarding the conditions for the holding of the presidential elections and the defining of the bodies in charge of guaranteeing that the balloting proceeds smoothly.

Kebir Denies FIS Requested To Resume Dialogue

MM0408101595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Rabah Kebir Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: FIS Did Not Request Resumption of Dialogue With Algerian Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Shaykh Rabah Kebir, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], has denied recent claims that the FIS leadership sent a message to the Algerian presidency requesting resumption of the dialogue between the two sides. He saw that as a "maneuver to undermine the opposition's solidarity."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Kebir also denied that the FIS leadership had made any concessions to the authorities. He emphasized that "the document submitted by the seven FIS shaykhs to the government's representatives on 19 June was the realistic minimum necessary in the search for a way out of the crisis." He added that "anything else published about concessions or contacts is completely unfounded."

Shaykh Kebir criticized the measures taken by the Algerian authorities against the FIS shaykhs after announcing the failure of the contacts on 13 July. He said that "since that date the shaykhs have been kept away and their fate is unknown. Nobody has met with Shaykh Abassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj and, therefore, we know nothing about them except the reports that Belhadj has gone on hunger strike in protest against the denial of his rights." He added: "As regards Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani, he has been returned to his cell in the Serkadji prison in the capital. He has gone on hunger strike in protest against the excesses committed against him." He said that these measures did not indicate "good intentions or readiness by the authorities for a political solution."

On relations between the FIS and the rest of the parties who signed the Rome National Covenant last January, the FIS Executive Committee chairman praised relations between the National Covenant parties and said that "our relations with our National Covenant partners are good. There is continuous consultation." He stressed that "the above-mentioned document of the shaykhs was a practical proposal for the implementation of the National Covenant document which provides for contacts between the authorities and the FIS as the two main parties to the conflict." He added: "But, for our part, we believe and we reaffirm to everyone that the final solution should be sought with the participation and approval of the represented parties, patriotic figures, and the entire political sector because, to put it briefly, we want a legitimate, just, and permanent solution that would safeguard Algeria's independence and territorial integrity and restore the people's dignity and right to choose their leaders and social system."

On his assessment of the National Covenant group nearly six months after its emergence, he said that the National Covenant document "is still the peaceful political way of resolving the crisis. I believe that the group has proved its political presence and has managed to impress upon Algerian society the possibility of a peaceful solution, thus restoring the hope of many people. It has also gained considerable international support and it continues to consult and to work with the aim of contributing effectively to the resolution of the stifling Algerian crisis."

On the effects of the recent arrest by the German authorities of an Algerian national on the charge of smuggling arms to the armed groups in Algeria, on FIS political activities, and on his own personal activities, Shaykh Rabah said: "We do not object when any state enforces its laws but we hope that the rights of the members of our community are not violated and that their dignity and human rights are respected."

Islamic Newsletter on 'Junta,' Paris Bombing

MS0308125795 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 2 Aug 95

[Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 31 "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS supporters in Europe" — received via Internet 3 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Editorial — How would a spoiled child react to signs of his mother changing?

Praise be to Allah who Says about the believers:" Those to whom men said: "A great army is gathering against you, so fear them": but it (only) increased their Faith: they said: "for us Allah Suffices us and He is the best Guardian." (Koran, surat al-Imran, 3:173).

This has been the basis on what the armed struggle was launched in January 1992 as a reaction to the Military coup. The Junta who has planned the coup thought that by arresting the leaders of the FIS, the Islamic movement will be disoriented or hijacked by those who failed to have the Algerian people trust during the elections of December 1991 and whose politics serves the Junta much more than Islam or muslims.

The Junta launched a mass arrest between January and March 1992 targeting the intermediary leadership of the FIS with the objective of depriving the imminent armed struggle from a qualitative commandment. The Junta predictions in its war against the Islamists have always been wrong and its treachery has always backfires at its authors. The winner of the elections of December 1991 (FIS) was a party who has chosen the path of: "peaceful methods of change as long as the opponent stays committed to the same." The Junta has chosen to talk with the Klashnikoves, tortures and concentration camps and with the help of some media, many seem to have forgotten who first have started to talk this kind of language on a massive scale. Many have "adviced" the Islamists to "offer the other cheek" on the pretext that the opponent has "pirated" the mighty military institutions of Algeria. But, praise be to Allah, the Islamists first and most of all relied on Him knowing that they are the one whom injustice has been done to and not the opposite and this no matter how far it may get from that 11/12/92. Allah (S.W.T) [Almighty] has made the situation in Algeria such that the armed opposition to the Junta could never be "wiped out" as the Junta propaganda pretends on the contrary it is going for strength to strength if only the Junta media releases the Mujahedeen military operations that are taking place in the country from East to West and from North to South. On the political side the Junta has been proven times after times that its high hierarchy interests are antagonistic to a "just and permanent peaceful solution to the crisis" and that each so-called "national dialogue" operation is in fact a part of a "deceiving package" which equally includes military and propaganda aspects aimed at everlasting if not worsening the actual situation.

The Junta philosophy is completely different, it relays on force and allies and has been lucky so far (if that can be said) to have found in the previous (if this also can be said) French government an ideal unconditional supporter that has render a great service to the military regime at time when it needed it most...to say the least!

All observers of the Algerian scene have had their "eyes" fixed on the behaviour of the new French authorities concerning the Algerian situation. For whatever purpose, the new French government has been sending "diplomatic signals" which may have been seen as negative by the Junta which is used to the "Balladur-Pasqua" scale. This could have trigger some kind of panic within the "eradicators generals" at the head of the Junta secret police (Security Militair) in particular. A panic similar to that felt by the OAS and the Generals responsible for the aborted coup against General de Gaulle during the Algerian war as a change in the "wind direction" was detected. It is more likely that in this optic that the murder of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui (may Allah accept him as Martyr) and the bomb attack of Paris metro station Saint-Michel, are to be seen. For the "special branch" planers in Algiers such operations are to be classified in the "blowing up the bridge" chapter.

They are not a reaction to previous events but rather an attempt to prevent or at least to obstruct as much as possible eventual future ones. One of the Junta most feared political nightmare is another "Rome conference".... in Paris... for example! The OAS has attempted to "export" the Algerian war to France so is the "eradicators" objective and for the "irony of History" the message to the French authorities is the same: "You have put us (or encourage us) to react the way we did these past years, now you are willing to let us down? Where are your promises and where is your word of honour? We will not pay the damage by ourselves!" In parallel, the Mujahedeen are fighting to win the war in Algeria and only in Algeria as their predecessor did and avoided by all means to open another front outside Algeria despite the massive flow of Algerian blood in the Seine river of Paris in 1960.

Even though the French official reactions are far from having radically changed on the subject of Algeria, the recent African tour of the French President and the first high contact with the Junta taking place in the "halls" of a regional conference in Tunisia, are seen by some observers as the beginning of the end of "unlimited access to cookies for the spoiled child" (Junta) in Algiers. So for the frustrated child to make a mess of the kitchen, it is at least predictable. The previous "spoiled child" (OAS) has literally burned Algeria before leaving it. What this one can do may be far more dramatic!

As for the Algerian people combat against the dictatorial military regime, it is an ongoing struggle which will is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

totally independent of international pressures or support. The struggle is for a Just cause by any decent standard what so ever and those under its banner need the help of the Mighty Allah only.

Allah Says: "If Allah helps you None can overcome you, if He forsakes you who is there, after that can help you? in Allah, then let the Believers put their trust." (Koran, surat al-Imran, 3:160]. And He (S.W.T) also Says:"... There is no victory except from Allah, the Exalted, the Wise." (Koran, surat al-Imran, 3:126).

The Oklahoma bomb of Paris!

A powerful bomb has exploded last Tuesday (25/07/95) at the metro station of RER Saint-Michel in Paris causing the death of seven people and wounding 84 others. This attack has not been revindicated. Three routes of investigation have been receiving more attention. The three possibilities are related respectively to "the Algerian situation", "the Bosnian situation" and the "Middle-east situation". The Algerian "route" has received the "oscar nomination" in the French media as well as in some officials suggestive declarations. As seen in the Oklahoma bombing, such crime is most of the time a catalyser for "the other-phobia" to express itself in the Media in a style of hatred and irrationality. Others see in such event an ignition of a process of releasing what the public opinion has been feed on of negative stereotypes about a particular group(s). Others see it as a political opportunity to exhibit their slogan of exclusion. Others see in the electrified public opinion ambience, an opportunity to press the authorities in changing their political stands in one matter or an other and this category even though it may not be connected to the act of violence itself but taking advantage of it for political purpose make them "terrorists of opportunity" as well.

In Oklahoma City, while the public opinion was (or made to be) "boiling" toward one direction of suspicion the authors happen to be from a different and unsuspected origin. Following are some facts related to the horrible crime and which may constitute few knots in the net: — A week after the assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui, the Algerian newspaper "LA TRIBUNE" in its issue of the 17/07/95, published details of the assassination and warns on coming bomb attacks. The details and names given by Madjad Hichem (pseudonym) in the newspaper can only be available to the junta secret police, "La S.M" according to some the French security men. it is to note that the assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki was also "predicted" by "LA TRIBUNE" ten days before the murder. Thus the question what is the role of "LA S.M" in the assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki and the bomb attack of Saint-Michel metro station? The information contained in the newspaper (issue of the 28/07/95) went as far as saying that the explosive used in the bomb attack were different from those used in Algeria before any laboratory analysis. The French authorities have apparently been asking questions about what was written in "La S.M"... sorry... "LA TRIBUNE" newspaper. — last Saturday (29/07/95) and from Tunisia, the Junta foreign minister Dembri has given an interview to the London based newspaper "AL HAYAT" after his talks with the French counterpart. To a question asked about the Paris bomb attack he said:" this way, you (interviewer) can count many potential nationalities and I do not know who may have suggested that Algerians are behind the attack. But one should go from a stage of assumption and supposition to the reality that is concretely proven by investigations. Suppositions can never constitute concrete reality!". This was an answer to a general question where the Algerian route as well as the Serb route were mentioned. It was not specifically directed to the Algerian assumption.

Some observers could not comprehend this defensive answer of Mr Dembri neither did they understand why the Junta minister says that he does not know who and where the assumption that Algerians may be behind the attack, came from given that, since the crime, all the Junta media (TV,radio and press) have been pushing hard the thesis that Algerians were behind it. Some went further and suggested that the French minister has in fact strongly complain about the Junta link to the Shaykh Abdelbaki murder as well as the Paris bomb attack but the Junta "special branch" has left no trace behind in both cases of being the direct executor or in the case of subcontracting the job and that is at least what Mr Dembri thinks. This explains the raison [reason] why the Junta minister was on the defensive and emphasising on the necessity to prove what is being accused. Their arguments are based on the fact that French authorities may know more in terms of the murder sponsoring than what they are willing to divulge to the public for "raison d'Etat" [reason of State]. They add that, on the other hand, everyone who enters the Mosque where the Shaykh was assassinated, has his picture taken by apparently hidden cameras in the vicinity of the Mosque of Myrha street in Paris and that by now the French authorities should know everything concerning the murder.

— The murder of Shaykh Abdelbaki which came 24 hours after the Junta announcement about the failure of "dialogue" with the FIS jailed leaders may show a coordination and synchronisation at very high level of the Junta hierarchy.

It is likely that the full story of such murders will not be known to the public for a long time to come because

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the scene in Algeria or France concerning the ongoing conflict is that of politics running over Justice.

The Junta old dialogue song over again!

After the Junta announcement of the failure in the "dialogue" with the FIS , General Zeroual did not waist time to turn to the other part of the opposition and has invited this time 12 political parties, 7 organisations and seven personalities. It is important to note that in the 12 political parties invited the Junta has shown some equity in the sense that in its eyes a party who represents say a family of five is treated exactly the same as a party who represent millions of people. No difference. For the military, the parties are all equal one another and all are equal to ZERO according to the theorem of General ZEROual.

Anyway, the seven super-Algerians invited are: Belaid Abdesalem, Colonel Ahmed Bencherif, Rabah Bitat, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Colonel Mouloud Hamrouch, Dr Ahmed Taleb El Ibrahimi and Redha Malek. All those who are invited by General Zeroual (hoping he did not mixe up the proper list with that of his private party guests!), are asked to answer him back before the 07/08/95 and by writing. Belaid Abdesalem, Redha Malek and colonel Bencherif were the first to eagerly and positively answer the call.

It seems that the strategy of the Junta is based on "please come and enter the election context or I will make you candidate you like or not, it will be too obvious for General Zeroual to be the only candidate!". Where as for the elections it has promised will take place before December, the Junta is going to present the report of the elections as something the others (parties and personalities) have "begged" for and that the bighearted Junta was touched in its generosity and could not refuse but the security situation is under control of course! So please do not listen to those who says that the Junta has lost the challenge!

The FLN [National Liberation Front] political bureau was on the other hand has declined the invitation as of Tuesday 01/08/95.

Reflection on the state of the Ummah: Piety is the strongest foundation!

Praise be to Allah Who says: "*... There is a mosque whose foundation was laid from the first day on piety; it is more worthy of you standing for prayer therein. In it are men who love to be purified; and Allah Loves those who make themselves pure. * Which then is best? he that lays his foundation on piety to Allah and His Good Pleasure? or he that lays his foundation on an undermined sand-cliff ready to crumble to pieces and with him into Hellfire. And Allah Does not guide unjust people." Koran Surat At- Tauba, S9: 108-109).

In these two verses Allah (S.W.T) [Almighty] Enlightens us on the difference between a construction which is built on piety and fear of Allah and the one which is not.

In the first verse (ayat), Allah (S.W.T) [Almighty] Addresses His Prophet (p.b.u.h) [Praise Be Upon Him] about the specific Mosque that was first built by the Prophet (p.b.u.h) in Qubaa, a suburb of Madinah just following Hijra. Few years later some Hypocrites from the Tribe of Bani Ganam built an other Mosque beside "the Mosque of Piety" pretending to advance Islam while in reality they were in league with a notorious enemy of Islam Abu Amir, his confederates wanted a mosque for him to come to, but it would only be a source of mischief and division, and the scheme was disapproved. The difference between the two Mosques is highlighted and because one is built on Piety, it is full of People sincere who want to approach Allah by true willingness to be purified (Taubatane Nassu'ha). In the second verse, Allah (S.W.T) [Almighty] by ways of demonstration, Shows to the believers His rule (Sunna) in blessing a construction in the most general sense. Those who perform investigation of Allah's creation patterns (Sunnatu Allah Fi khalkih), find that this rule applies at every scale of human organisations; from an individual to a society. A man who builds his life on Piety (which include sincerity and the purity of all motives) and his hopes on the acceptance by Allah, builds on a firm foundation of rock that will never be shaken. In contrast to him is the man who builds on a shifting sand-cliff on the brink of an abyss, already undermined by forces which he does not see. The cliff and the foundations all crumble to pieces along with him, and he is plunged into the Fire of misery from which there is no escape. So is also the case of societies which collapse when injustice become the norm. The above invariable rule is the principal cause of what this Ummah is enduring despite her potential. The misery of this Ummah originated from within itself first, which has caused its weakening and has increased its vulnerability to external aggression subsequently.

The Majority of today's "Muslim" countries has build their society on other thing that the Piety and fear of Allah. If one take the origin of the "Muslim countries" to be the day of their independence than one can affirm that most if not all of them did not started with Piety and fear of Allah. Some went to the extreme by rebellion against Allah (S.W.T) [Almighty] by importing in the sixties and seventies, communism and socialism ideologies and made them the foundation of their project of society. They have made licit what Allah

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

has declared illicite such as expropriation of private land, teaching of Atheism to children and made illicite what Allah has made licit such as the freedom of licit trading, the freedom of licit wealth accumulation... The result was misery and widespread of corruption in countries supposed to be rich in resources. Others have chosen a capitalistic economy without extracting from it what Allah has made illicite i,e Usury (Riba'a) and without giving their people the freedom of political expression find in countries from where the system was imported. The result is that they are bankrupted and have hypothecated the resources of future generations. But what ever path the regimes may have taken, they were all dictatorial directly or indirectly and this has always generated from those who do not fear Allah, a general corruption vital for their stay in power.

When a ruler have access to the destiny of the Ummah without a consensus, he will have to delegate high functions of the state to people he trusts rather than those who are the best in serving the Ummah in that particular state function. It is the ruler's way to survive in power. However by doing this, appointing the less able to serve the Muslims, he has according to many scholars committed a big crime. Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiya in his book "the licit politics" (Al-Siyasah al-shar'iyah) has quoted a saying of the Prophet (p.b.u.h) reported by Al Hakem and narrated by Ibn al- 'Abbas which states: "He who has delegate a thing from the affairs of Muslims by giving it to a man while he could find who is better for the Muslims than the one he has chosen, has in fact betrayed Allah and His Messenger!" and in an other version, "...has betrayed Allah, His Messenger and the believers!" 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab may Allah be pleased with him said "He, who delegates from the affairs of Muslims a thing to a man because of close relationship or friendship, has in fact betrayed Allah, His Messenger and the Muslims." Imposing families, bloodline, clans, tribes, etc...ties upon the affairs of muslims is one of the principal cause of the Ummah moral and material bankruptcy.

May Allah put the affairs of Muslims in the hands of their best and May Allah Make the revival of Islam built on Piety Amine!

Egypt

Musa Meets Iraqi Counterpart, Discusses Cooperation

NC0308154295 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 31 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce Federation is expected to leave for Iraq at Iraq's request to examine the possibility of obtaining contracts for projects in various Iraqi cities.

The Iraqi Government has agreed to Egypt's request to increase its diplomatic representation; Egypt will appoint a new counselor, thereby increasing the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Baghdad to eight diplomats.

ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has approved a request made by his Iraqi counterpart, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, during their 90-minute meeting last week that Egypt work for Arab reconciliation. Musa also agreed for Egypt to support the Iraqi efforts on the Arab and international levels to lift the embargo and repeal the resolution freezing Iraqi assets abroad so that the Iraqi Government can immediately pay the salaries of Egyptian workers, which amounts to $500 million.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is expected to tour the Gulf countries in August to learn the views of the officials there about the possibility of Iraq returning to the Arab fold and of reaching a comprehensive reconciliation at the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers council during the Arab League's 104th session in December.

Islamic Group To Continue Antiregime Operations

MM0308123295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Islamic Group Threatens Egyptian Officials"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — A bulletin issued by the Egyptian Islamic Group [IG] has confirmed that the IG "is determined to continue its operations against Egyptian officials until the establishment of an Islamic state in Egypt." The AL-MURABITUN bulletin, which the IG resumed publication of after a suspension of over two years, said that three of its members who participated in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak, refused to surrender to the Ethiopian security forces "and fought until the house they were in was brought down on their heads by rocket fire."

The IG had claimed responsibility for the assassination attempt on Mubarak in Addis Ababa 26 June. The bulletin used to be published in Peshawar in Pakistan and was editorially supervised by Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, a leading figure and IG spokesman who currently lives in Denmark having been granted political asylum there early in 1993.

It is known that Qasim had absconded to escape implementation of the death sentence issued by the Higher Military Court in Alexandria in connection with the case of the "returnees from Afghanistan."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

AL-HAYAH has obtain a copy of the new edition of AL-MURABITUN, which contains several articles but does not say where the bulletin is currently published. Sources close to the IG, however, said that the bulletin is now published in the British capital, London, and coedited by IG members living in a European state.

The bulletin strongly attacked the Ethiopian Government and stressed that three of the perpetrators of the assassination attempt on President Mubarak refused to surrender to the Ethiopian authorities. It said: "Our mujahidin were true men even while fighting outside their country. They refused to surrender and rejected the humiliation of capture. Three of them faced the Ethiopian Army's rats and they stood firm without weakening for four whole hours until the house they were in was brought down on their heads by rocket fire."

It reaffirmed "the IG's determination to continue its operations against Egyptian officials until the establishment of an Islamic state in Egypt." It said that this century has witnessed the emergence of movements for change targeting the regimes in their countries. It added: "In Afghanistan the communist regime destroyed everything and used aircraft, bombs, missiles, prison, detention, torture, starvation, and violation of honor. Four successive presidents fought the revolution of the mujahidin with all their might. The last was Najibollah, who falsely and hypocritically used religion, but that did not fool the mujahidin. It is true that, under the circumstances of the Cold War, the mujahidin received substantial aid from the West, but it is also true that the West, headed by the United States, was not giving the mujahidin enough to ensure their victory but was giving them enough to prolong the war and exhaust the Soviet Union without securing victory for the mujahidin."

The bulletin continued: "No observer can deny that up until the moment of the mujahidin's victory the communist regime had military superiority, but the mujahidin's patience triumphed and the mujahidin settled the fight in their favor, and the army officers surrendered with their tanks, aircraft, and missiles which had not done them any good. The United Nations packed its bags and left when the mujahidin entered Kabul."

AL-MURABITUN added: "In Somalia, Siad Barre, supported by imperialist forces, continued to fight his people year after year but in the end he had to flee and the tribes entered Mogadishu. In fact, later on a group of fighters and Somalis forced the United States to withdraw and forced the United Nations to swallow its resolutions yet again."

On the Iranian revolution, the bulletin said: "Whereas the revolutions in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Eritrea were armed, the revolution of the ayatollahs was not, but what it faced were not weak, poor, and isolated regimes in northern Asia or southeast [as published] Africa but one of the oldest and most ferocious regimes in a strategic region for both East and West...but in the end Khomeyni, who was in exile, the ayatollahs, who had nothing but their turbans, and the people, who only had their blood to spill and their bodies to throw under the tanks and in front of the guns, in the end that weak triple force defeated the stronger triple force of shah, army, and Savak."

Radio Commentary Warns Iraqi, Sudanese Regimes

NC0308200195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "When Will the Arab Nationalist Individuals Move To Settle Scores With Their Leaderships?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, 2 August, marks the anniversary of the great crime of treachery and aggression to which Kuwait was exposed five years ago. Even though five years have passed since that earthquake, its repercussions on the Arab World, which still exhaust all Arab resources and wealth, have set back the Arab peoples many years. Therefore, and as a warning against the dangers inherent in that aggression launched by Iraq against Kuwait, the Egyptian political leadership addressed more than 30 appeals to Iraq, asking it to back down from its aggression and withdraw from Kuwait. However, covetous ambitions controlled the ruling Iraqi regime until matters reached their well-known conclusion.

We are reviewing the devastating repercussions that have afflicted the Arab homeland on this anniversary of that sinful aggression because we want to try to straighten out the stray minds and morbid imaginations that, regrettably, still abound in certain Arab and African areas, and even in other parts of the world, such as the Balkan region. In these areas, aggressive concepts and plots remain the course of action for modern tyrants with faulty thinking and a crazy craving for false leadership. They are swimming against the current, sacrificing the interests and future of their peoples.

The adverse repercussions of Iraq's crime against Kuwait have not been limited to the peoples and economies of those two countries. Needless to say, all Arab capitals without exception have paid and are still paying an exorbitant price. According to the latest report by the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab countries have paid $800 billion, of which the Iraqi people alone paid $200 billion to rebuild its infrastructure destroyed during the liberation war. In addition, feelings of anger

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and hatred still seethe in the hearts of the Kuwaiti people, who were exposed to the treachery of those whom they had considered to be brothers and neighbors. The Iraqi regime still keeps hundreds of Kuwaiti POW's in Iraqi jails, entailing severe psychological suffering for their relations in Kuwait.

Moreover, international reports confirm that Iraq is still expanding its development and production of weapons of mass destruction, particularly biological and chemical weapons, and they pose a threat to the neighboring countries, primarily Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, especially since Iraq has normalized relations with Iran. That is why the international community continues its embargo on Iraq, responding to Iraq's persistence in its erroneous practices. Iraq rejects all attempts by the Arab League in this respect.

We do not exaggerate in saying that on 2 August 1990, history registered the beginning of the fragmentation of the Arab nation and the economic deterioration of numerous Arab countries. Certain Gulf countries even cut their general budgets for the first time. This situation has also generated suspicion about the possibility of rectifying the Arab nation's situation as long as such leaderships continue to burden their peoples, manipulate them and their resources, and deliberately block any rapproachment, solidarity, and cooperation with their Arab brothers.

Perhaps, the Sudanese leadership's sinful crime in Addis Ababa, and its nurturing and backing of terrorists confirm the irresponsible and unethical role played by such leaderships, contravening the interests of their peoples and the future of the entire Arab nation. We urge the free nationalist individuals to move to stop the erroneous practices of these tyrants and to confront their crimes against their peoples and the neighboring countries. Keeping silent about the injustice of these tyrants and failing to confront them is tantamount to sharing their crimes, for which the future generations will call us to account. This is particularly so because what these leaders are doing runs counter to religious values, which forbid aggression against others, and contradicts human ideals that call for love and peace, not treachery and betrayal, which the Iraqi regime practiced against Kuwait after receiving the blessing of Shaykh al-Turabi and General al-Bashir, who hide behind Islam, of which they know nothing.

Trade Body Denies Reports on Visit to Baghdad

NC0308131895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1230 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian Chambers of Commerce Federation [ECCF] has denied reports that an ECCF delegation and members of the Egyptian Industries Union will visit Iraq soon, because the ECCF will be busy preparing for a conference on the private sector's role in promoting trade and joint investment among the Islamic countries, which is scheduled to convene in Cairo from 30 September through 2 October. Stating this, 'Abd-al-Sattar 'Ishrah, who is the ECCF secretary general, added that the ECCF apologized for not keeping the invitation to visit Baghdad, an invitation it received from the Iraqi Chambers of Commerce Federation when the Iraqi delegation participated in the Arab investors conference that convened in Alexandria in May. 'Ishrah stressed the ECCF's complete interest in close ties with the Iraqi people while complying with the UN resolutions regarding the embargo imposed on Iraq. He said the ECCF is not opposed to transactions with Iraq allowed by the United Nations regarding the export of foodstuffs, medicines, and other commodities.

Mauritania

Opposition Group Critical of Refugee Situation

AB0308181895 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Union of Democratic Forces [UDF], one of the Mauritanian opposition parties, has organized a four-day colloquium in Nouakchott, the capital, on the economic situation of the country for the past three years. The proceedings of this colloquium, which ended yesterday afternoon, also examined the conditions for the return of Mauritanian refugees and deportees in Senegal. This was confirmed to our correspondent, Salem Meshbour Salem, by UDF leader Ahmed Ould Dadah. Listen to him:

[Begin Dadah recording] We continue to demand that refugees return in order and dignity. They must be able to recover their rights: property, farms, houses, and the jobs they were deprived of without any offenses on their part. We have always demanded, and continue to demand, that those repatriated from Senegal, who have now been completely forgotten, benefit from the solidarity of the national community. There must be a real reintegration plan for all, and we think it is a moral duty for the whole national community to come to the aid of these fellow citizens whose dignity, identity, and social and economic situation were unfairly trampled upon. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sudan

Official Comments on Mubarak Attack Investigation

EA0308133595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 3 Aug (SUNA) — Director of the foreign ministry's political department, Dr. Anwar al-Hadi, has said the results of investigations conducted by the Ethiopian authorities in the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which concluded that all those involved were Egyptian nationals, affirms the impartiality and objectivity of the Ethiopian Government.

Dr. Hadi, speaking to SUNA, went on to say that the results of Ethiopian investigations, which were announced Tuesday [1 August], proved the falseness of accusations fabricated by the Egyptian regime against Sudan.

He added that the assassination attempt against Mubarak was a natural extension to the violence taking place inside Egypt as a result of frustration and injustice felt there.

Families in Hala'ib Triangle 'Forced' South

EA0308133095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Port Sudan, 3 Aug (SUNA) — The Sudanese citizens living within the Hala'ib triangle have been forced by the Egyptian authorities to move south of Latitude 22 north following pressure and harassment against the citizens.

In a statement to SUNA, acting Hala'ib commissioner (Tajas Sir) Muhammad Uthman, said 11 families have settled at Oseif area, while 18 other families have settled at the (Ganatit) area. He went on to say that Oseif has been selected as an administrative headquarters for Hala'ib Province, due to availability of some infrastructure at the area. The province authorities have decided to build a primary school at Oseif as an alternative to Hala'ib school, which was occupied by the Egyptian authorities, he added.

In an interview conducted by SUNA among Hala'ib citizens it was reported that Egyptian authorities used to fly military aircraft over the area during the night, besides using gun shooting to scare the citizens. [sentence as received] On the other hand the Hala'ib people have received the support mission sponsored by the Red Sea state to emphasize solidarity with Hala'ib citizens.

Speaker of the state congress, Ali Musa, has asserted the state's concern over the Hala'ib issue, pointing out that the Egyptian provocations at Hala'ib are part of an international plot aimed at undermining Sudan's Islamic orientation.

Western Sahara

Polisario Criticizes 'Provocative' Moroccan Stance

LD0308181895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement today, the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] criticized Morocco's provocative stance toward the Saharan people and the United Nations. The statement confirmed that elements from the Moroccan police and army stormed an aircraft yesterday, on board which was one of the Saharan figures and observers coming from the liberated territories to take part in the proceedings of the voter identification committee. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait

Russian Foreign Minister Continues Official Visit

Says Russia Security Guarantor

LD0308113895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0823 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 Aug (KUNA) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev here today emphasized his country's commitment to the defense of the security and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, pointing out that this requires Iraq to implement all UN resolutions. Kozyrev said at a news conference held today prior to his departure following a two-day visit to the country that Russia regards itself as a guarantor of Kuwait's security and will act decisively to achieve this. He said that he had discussed with all the officials whom he had met during his visit to the country the establishment of a strong security system in the region and cooperation to increase the Kuwaiti defense efficiency in addition to any other measures to guarantee that Kuwait would not be exposed to any future armed aggression. Kozyrev stressed that the realization of security in the region could not be complete and firm without there being a total settlement of the crisis which arose five years ago — by that I mean the necessity for Iraq to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions. He went on to refer to the importance of Iraq clarifying the fates of the lost Kuwaitis and stressed that this was the top priority. Kozyrev stressed that Russia would continue its efforts aimed at solving this problem by using its capabilities and influence with Baghdad.

Kozyrev pointed out that his talks with the Kuwaiti officials dealt with the means of consolidating bilateral relations between the two countries especially in the economic field. The organizing of a plenary meeting between Russian and Kuwaiti businessmen to discuss the prospects of investment in Russia and staging a fair of Russian products in Kuwait were discussed. He said that setting up a joint banking consortium was also discussed. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was asked whether there were new Russian initiatives to solve the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners detained in Iraqi jails. He said that Russia has made great efforts in this regard and hoped that these efforts would be crowned with success. Regarding economic cooperation between Kuwait and Russia, he said that cooperation between them was not something new and pointed out that there has been bilateral cooperation in the oil sector for a long time now. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD0308135895 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on 3 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, His Excellency Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation foreign minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid a visit to Kuwait on 2 and 3 August 1995.

His Excellency the honorable guest had an audience with His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah at Bayan Palace. The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister; the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, minister of the amiri affairs office; and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majir al- Shahin. The guest conveyed greetings and best wishes from His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin to his highness the amir and handed him a letter from President Yeltsin. The honorable guest recalled during the audience his country's principled and clear stance during the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, whose painful anniversary is being marked these days, reaffirming the continuation and firmness of his country's principled stands regarding compelling Iraq to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, particularly those concerning the issue of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and the returning of Kuwaiti properties.

During the audience the means of developing and consolidating the growing bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in all spheres, were discussed. Identical views were held regarding emphasizing the desire to develop and strengthen these relations in the interests of both countries and their friendly peoples. The amir expressed the appreciation and gratitude of Kuwait, the leadership and people, for the principled and firm stands of the fraternal Russian Federation on the side of the Kuwaiti right and its just causes. The amir requested that the honorable guest take back with him his greetings and best wishes to His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin, wishing him the best of health and happiness.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Holds News Conference

LD0308204795 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has lauded the results of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Kuwait and described it as successful. This was said at a joint news conference held by Shaykh Sabah al—Jabir and the Russian foreign minister at Kuwait international airport this morning.

[Begin Sabah al-Jabir recording] While seeing off my dear friend, the Russian foreign minister, I would like to stress a few points that I have discussed with his excellency and some that were discussed with his highness the amir. I would like to assure the Kuwaiti media and people that Russia is committed to the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and also to Kuwait's peace and safety.

Finally, I would like to wish his excellency the minister and his colleagues a safe journey to Moscow, and I hope to see him again in Kuwait or Moscow. [end recording]

Kozyrev also confirmed Russia's commitment to defend Kuwait's security and sovereignty, making clear that that required Iraq's implementation of all the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Begin Kozyrev recording, in Russian fading into Arabic translation] First of all, I would like to express my profound thanks to the Kuwaiti leadership, particularly to his highness the amir and my counterpart and dear friend Shaykh Sabah for the exceptionally warm hospitality and welcome that, in my view, even exceeded the temperature outside.

I handed a letter yesterday from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to his highness, the amir of Kuwait. During my meeting with his highness, I felt the depth of friendship and amity between the leaders of the two countries, which is a good basis for strengthening bilateral relations between our countries in the future.

Naturally, one of the pivotal points during my meetings in Kuwait was issues and problems concerning bilateral relations. It is worth noting that these relations are developing well and with great dynamism. In this context, we discussed ways and means of strengthening and consolidating them. Also in this context, his highness the amir gave his instructions to start efforts we are making toward that, particularly in the field of economic cooperation between the two countries.

I would particularly like to point out a plan to organize a big conference or meeting that would bring together officials and businessmen from Russia and Kuwait. It is possible to devote such a meeting to issues concerning investment and improving the investment opportunities currently available in Russia, and also to organize a fair of Russian industrial products in Kuwait.

We have also discussed the setting up a kind of a joint banking consortium.

Undoubtedly, we discussed issues concerning the establishment of a solid security system in this region. We believe that one of the pivotal points of this system is the need to secure the national security and territorial integrity of the friendly State of Kuwait.

We are making determined efforts to maintain Kuwait's security, and we believe that it is essential to guarantee Kuwait's security. Russia considers itself among those safeguarding Kuwait's security.

In this context, we are prepared to cooperate and help to raise Kuwait's defense capability. We are also prepared to take additional and other measures that will ensure that Kuwait will not be exposed to any kind of armed aggression.

I would like to point out that Kuwait's security will not be firmly established and complete without a full settlement of the crisis that started five years years. By that I mean that one of the most vital elements in Kuwait's security is the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq.

I would like to point out that an explanation about Kuwaiti prisoners and missing people takes great priority. We will continue our efforts aimed at resolving this problem, including using our resources and influence in our contacts with Baghdad.

Many thanks for listening to me. Thanks again to the Kuwaiti side for the good hospitality and warm welcome. [end recording]

The Russian foreign minister left Kuwait at the end of a two-day official visit. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; Foreign Ministry undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; the Russian charge d'affaires; and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Qatar

Jordan, Qatar Issue Statement on King's Visit

JN0308142895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Joint statement on visit by Jordan's King Husayn issued on 3 August—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the kind invitation from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, and from the premise of the solid and close relations between the two countries, and in embodiment of the close fraternal bonds between them, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, paid an official visit to the State of Qatar from 2-3 August 1995.

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal and the delegation accompanying him were accorded an official and fraternal reception which genuinely demonstrated the sincere and deeply-rooted historical bonds between the two fraternal countries.

His majesty offered congratulations in his name and on behalf of his government and the Jordanian people to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on the occasion of his highness' assumption of power in the State of Qatar. His majesty wished his highness and his wise government, and the Qatari people success and prosperity.

Within the framework of brotherhood and complete understanding of the need to enhance the close cooperation between the two countries, the two Arab leaders held talks which were permeated by complete and mutual trust. The talks resulted in identical viewpoints on all the issues covered by the talks which were attended by ranking officials from the two sides.

The two sides reviewed the good fraternal relations between the two countries in all fields. They noted with great satisfaction the positive development of these relations in all fields of cooperation. They also reviewed the aspects of this cooperation in all political, economic, investment, trade, cultural, and other fields.

An agreement was signed during the visit to establish a joint higher committee under the foreign ministers to promote the scope of this cooperation in a manner that serves the interests of the fraternal people and their common aspirations.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the situation in the Arab arena and emphasized the great importance of restoring Arab solidarity on realistic foundations that are characterized by frankness and objectivity, reactivating joint Arab action, and bolstering the Arab League's efforts in this respect. They also stressed the need to entrench the principles that are based on mutual respect, the sovereignty of all countries over their territories, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

The two sides reviewed the state of affairs in the Arabian Gulf and emphasized the importance of consolidating security and stability in that area and avoiding all that would endanger its security and stability. The two sides discussed the situation in Iraq and stressed their concern over Iraq's unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty, and praised the positive step represented in the recognition by the Republic of Iraq of the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, of its territorial integrity and the safety of its international borders in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 833, stressing that this is an important step in the right direction to Iraq's implementation of all the related UN Security Council resolutions, with the purpose of ending the fraternal Iraqi people's tribulation and restoring security and stability to the region.

The two sides reviewed the Middle East peace process and the progress of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. They expressed their support for the peace process, as well as their eagerness for substantial progress on all tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. They also voiced their commitment to reaching a lasting, just, and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute based on the Madrid formula, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 883, the principle of land for peace, and efforts to achieve a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

They also called for enabling the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights, including their right to establish their independent state on their national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital, stressing the need not to make any change in the city's current situation within its 1967 borders or in its geographic and demographic characteristics during the transition period in order to affect the results of negotiations on it.

The two sides asserted that any solution based on other than these foundations will not be considered a comprehensive and lasting one and will not achieve security and stability in the Middle East region. They also stressed that comprehensive peace should achieve equal and balanced security for all parties. This requires the establishment of a zone that is free of all conventional and unconventional weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

The two sides reviewed the situation in fraternal Somalia and urged the disputing parties to commence a serious dialogue to solve their differences, achieve national reconciliation, and preserve the fraternal Somali people's unity and their territorial integrity.

The two sides expressed their strong condemnation of and discontent with the continued Serb aggression on safe areas of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They denounced the Serb forces for killing, displacement, atrocities, and ethnic cleansing policies, which conflict with basic human rights guidelines of the international

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

charter. They noted that this Serb aggression has occurred amid international silence and the observation of UN forces. They also renewed their countries' support for the brothers in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and urged the international community, represented by the Security Council, the big powers, and the influential Islamic states to intervene quickly and decisively to end the Serb aggression by taking a firm, unhesitant stand to protect the Bosnian people and immediately lift the weapons embargo to enable them to defend themselves and safeguard their country's unity, independence, and sovereignty in accordance with the UN Charter.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to his majesty and his accompanying delegation by the Qatari amir, government, and people. His Majesty King Husayn then extended an official invitation to his brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His highness accepted the invitation, and the date of the visit will be set at an appropriate time.

Saudi Arabia

King Keeps Former Information Minister as Adviser

LD0308202295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 3 August, broadcasts a three-minute report noting that King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz has issued four royal decrees appointing the following:

1. Former Information Minister 'Ali Bin-Hasan al-Sha'ir as adviser at the royal court with the rank of minister.
2. 'Abd-al-Wahab Bin Muhammad al-'Isa as deputy director of the royal court office with the rank of minister.
3. Muhammad Bin-Sulayman al-Hamdan as director of the king's private office with the rank of minister.
4. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hasan al-Nafisah as adviser at the royal court with the rank of minister.
5. Salih Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad al-Ibrahim deputy director of the premiership office.

New Cabinet Described as 'Move Forward'

MM0408105195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 9

[Article by 'Uthman al-'Umayr: "The New Saudi Cabinet: Efficiency, Experience, and Continuity That Does Not Lack Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The formation of governments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a characteristic that no other government in the Arab world shares. Saudi governments live long and take time to be born. The Saudis have spent about one-third, or perhaps even more, of their lives with the [outgoing] government. Talk about the "cabinet" and "ministerial portfolios" has been a favorite subject of discussion for the Saudis since the formation of the government in 1475 Hegira, the year King Faysal was assassinated and King Khalid assumed the reins of power in his place. When King Fahd later acceded to the throne, the same government was maintained with the exception of some individual changes such as the departure of Muhammad 'Abd-al-Yamani from the Ministry of Information and his replacement by 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the departure of Ghazi al-Qusaybi from the Ministry of Health and his replacement by Faysal al-Hujaylan, or the departure of Ahmad Zaki al-Yamani from the Ministry of Petroleum and his replacement by Hisham Nazir. This is in addition to a number of changes which covered the Ministries of Justice, Higher Education, Pilgrimage, Awqaf, and Municipal Affairs.

But the length of the governments' lives and their slow birth provides numerous advantages of which the Saudis have reaped the fruits, the most important being the entrenchment of stability that is essential for a country distinguished by the modernization of its administrative system, the completion of its public utilities, and its new employee cadres.

To the Saudi decisionmaker, change is not necessary if it is undertaken only for the sake of change, because this would lead to disorders and flaws in the running of affairs without realizing the desired fruits.

This, perhaps, explains why the Saudis have waited so long before the new government was formed, and on such a scale. It also explains the significance of the change that has taken place, the way it was carried out, and the personalities it involved, in addition to the disappearance of faces that have for a quarter of a century been effective elements in the Saudi ministerial set-up, and indeed had their influence on the events in the Arab world.

Yesterday, in the biggest administrative and organizational change witnessed by the Kingdom of Saudi Ara-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

bia, carried out within two weeks, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz selected a team consisting of 15 new ministers, in addition to the portfolios whose ministers were not changed, namely, those of defense, the interior, foreign affairs, and housing, and ministers who were not changed because they have not completed their four-year terms, namely, the ministers of justice, pilgrimage, higher education, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

A quick analysis of the new government set-up provides indications and meanings that are worth pointing out as follows:

1 — The Saudi state has fulfilled its pledge to carry out changes every four years covering ministers and those of that rank, as well as regional amirs, either by confirming them in their posts or replacing them in accordance with a royal decree. This undertaking on the part of the state undoubtedly reflects a desire for the development of administrative and organization processes in the state coupled with a greater measure of motivation and activation of state institutions to match up to the new horizons.

2 — This change constitutes an important step in the history of the Saudi administration, matched only by what happened in 1975 when King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who was crown prince at the time, brought new faces into the ministerial arena who, together with him, helped to move the Kingdom into the distinguished era we are now living in.

This step seems to be a similar move that has taken numerous elements and factors into consideration:

It has taken the element of expertise into consideration as evident in the cases of several ministers who are appointed to fields that are not foreign to them. The minister of finance, for example, has occupied the portfolio of minister of commerce for 20 years. He has been entrusted with the finance portfolio at a time when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is passing through economic conditions that demand administrative sophistication and knowledge as well as profound experience, so that continuity can be maintained in the field of the implementation of a cautious economic policy and the creation of a balance between expenditure and rationalization at the same time. Sulayman al-Salim is one of the capable people who have proven their capabilities during the past years. This is in addition to his wide culture and continuous expansion of his knowledge. The Ministry of Finance is regarded in Saudi Arabia as the mother of ministries after those of defense and the interior. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance has a long history in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and those assigned to occupy its portfolio are chosen with great care. It is not unlikely that the selection of the new minister of finance for this portfolio falls within the Kingdom's movement toward privatization. Sulayman al-Salim commands wide experience in the systems of companies and share operations. His great expertise and wide experience makes his appointment to one of the most senior posts in the Saudi Government the greatest of surprises [as published].

The second surprise is the appointment of 'Ali al-Nu'aymi as minister of petroleum and mineral resources. His name was picked from a long list of candidates. 'Ali al-Nu'aymi began his working life as a worker in the petroleum sector and kept getting promoted until he became president of the Saudi Aramco company, from whence he was chosen for the post of minister of petroleum and mineral resources, which is another of the most important portfolios. The occupier of this Saudi ministerial post is usually one who enjoys an extraordinary position on the international scene because of the position the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia occupies internationally and because of its solid position in the oil sphere.

Great expertise is also one of the constituents of the Saudi ministerial set-up. The new minister of communications, Nasir al- Sallum, has been undersecretary of this ministry. He was the man who ran the ministry with efficiency, alongside its then minister. The new Information Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Farisi was himself the undersecretary of this ministry and was directly and closely involved in its activities.

The new Minister of Education Muhammad al-Rashid too has had long experience in the field of education, both internally and externally.

There are ministers in the new cabinet whose capabilities differ [Arabic: Tatamayyaz] from their experience in the fields they will be occupying such as the Minister of Health, Usamah al-Baz, and the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, 'Ali Talal al-Jahani and the Minister of Municipalities, Muhammad al-Jarallah.

By this decisive set-up, King Fahd has accomplished important achievements for his country and for his political administration. For by the new set-up he has laid the administrative responsibility on the shoulders of another generation. Though this generation has been waiting for a long time, it has in the end achieved what it aspired to.

Furthermore, the new set-up has taken a number of important aspects into consideration, which is one of the excellent characteristics of the personality of King Fahd, who knows how to comprehend conditions and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

how to make precise calculations according to sound criteria.

For in this government, one finds capabilities if one looks for them. One will also find experience that has been given the chance to manifest itself, and purity in the past reputation of every member of the new cabinet. One can also find a degree of continuity which, however, does not mean continuation without movement.

This is a new move forward which only Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who grew up as his country was being built stone by stone, is versed in. He has stood firm with unforgettable efforts by his person and his ambitions to build untiringly the present and future of his country.

By his choice of the new cabinet ministers King Fahd has reiterated his statement that countries are built only by brains, qualifications, and solid capabilities that are bent on building the future and that aspire to put its train on the right track.

Yemen

Salih Hopes U.S. Congress' Bosnia Decision Not Vetoed

JN0308210595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenent General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, today attended the inauguration ceremony of a week of solidarity with the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina held by the Yemeni Popular Committee at the al-Shaykhani hall.

The brother president gave a speech at the ceremony, which he began by thanking the Popular Committee for supporting the Muslim people of Bosnia. He said: On this occasion, I call on all citizens to donate money in support of our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina against the Serb aggressors, who are committing atrocities against Muslim people under the very eyes of the world, as well as the sponsors of the new world order, which exercises a double-standard policy.

The brother president added: We noted with interest how the U.S. Congress and Senate voted in favor of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. We hope that U.S. President Bill Clinton will not veto this decision.

The brother president called on the Organization of Islamic Conference in the name of our Yemeni people to immediately hold an urgent meeting for the Islamic foreign ministers in order to take a serious stand toward these new developments and toward the suffering of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the harm being done to Muslims in Chechnya.

The brother president called on our Yemeni people to donate generously to their Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He began the campaign by donating 100 million Yemeni riyals on behalf of the state, and 200,000 riyals from his own salary. He said: I call on social organizations and figures, charitable people, and all the prosperous in our Arab Muslim community, which is well known for its support and genuine stands, to donate generously for the brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Concluding his speech, he wished the Popular Committee success in its work. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Cable From Bosnian President

JN0308192495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, has received a cable from brother Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The cable says:

I just learned that today in Yemen is a day of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is cause for our pride. We are delighted to know that despite the geographical distance, the heroic and ancient people of Yemen are close to us in our struggle for national liberty and our country's sovereignty. At the same time, we are happy that our perseverance and success in resisting the Serb enemy removes all causes of discrimination and unites Muslim peoples.

Your excellency the president, we in Bosnia are waging a decisive battle for survival. This battle is also waged so that truth might prevail in the world and in society. Therefore, this battle has a strong reverberation throughout the world.

We thank the friendly people of Yemen and their government for the help and support. We will always remember your generosity and brotherly sentiments, which give us more courage and adherence to the right path. We ask God to help us all.

Please accept my respect for you.

[Signed] President Alija Izetbegovic

[Dated] Sarajevo, 3 August 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

INC Issues Statement on Saddam's 'Amnesty'

LD0208113195 London Iraqi National Congress Press Release in English 1706 GMT 1 Aug 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London (1 August) The following is text of a statement by the Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress in response to reports that Saddam Husayn has ordered an amnesty for all dissidents both at home and abroad:

"The so-called Revolutionary Command Council has issued a decree which provides for the release of political prisoners and calls on the Iraqi opposition to return to Iraq within two months of the date of issuance of the decree. This follows Saddam Husayn's speech on the 27th July anniversary. The decree is an insult to Iraqi refugees abroad and to the forces of the Iraqi opposition.

"This decree does not in any way reflect an abandonment of the murderous and repressive methods on which this regime has depended for a quarter of a century. It is clearly a manoeuvre aimed at securing the lifting of sanctions. Were it anything different, Saddam would have acted long ago, (and certainly after the UN Security Council passed resolution 688) in order to respond to the aspirations of the people, as well as the demands of the international community, for an end to the tyranny. The regime, if sincere, would have granted the people freedom, recognised their basic rights, and created security and stability both inside Iraq and the region at large.

"Looking back over the history of this regime, the one recurrent feature is its total lack of credibility. It has brutally suppressed the Iraqi opposition and all parties, movements, and individuals who have opposed its methods. Indeed, it has frequently executed, assassinated, or imprisoned many among its own party members and the military leadership. Everyone is familiar with the regime's bloodthirsty campaigns against the Iraqi people. It has committed acts of genocide in Kurdistan and the southern Marshes, forced people into exile, and organised assassinations of opposition members. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens have been tortured and killed in its prisons.

"The Iraqi National Congress [INC] sympathises with the families of prisoners and understands their suffering. However, we do not view this decree as representing any change in the regime's oppressive methods. We do not believe that it represents any escape from the desperate, all-pervasive atmosphere of terror. The INC will not be fooled by a manoeuvre which calls on thousands of people from their country to return to a place which denies them every basic human and civil right to an extent unparalleled elsewhere.

"The crimes against humanity committed by this regime are such that it['s] leaders must be put on trial and condemned. The first to go on trial should be the President of Iraq, Saddam Husayn. The INC will work hard and long to ensure that these crimes are punished and to overthrow this regime.

"This is the firm position of the Iraqi National Congress in the face of the regime's manoeuvres and deceptions. The INC will stand by this position until the people have been freed, their hopes fulfilled, and a constitutional, democratic government is established which speaks to the hopes and dreams of the Iraqi people."

Paper Welcomes Amnesty as Sign of 'New Trend'

MM0308162395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "The Iraqi Amnesty, a Turning Point"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Revolution Command Council's decision granting a general amnesty to all political prisoners and convicts at home and abroad deserves welcome and praise, not only because it was the first of its kind but also because of the fact that it was a qualitative step toward saving Iraq and preserving the unity of its national territory in the face of the ethnic and factional fragmentation designs led by the United States and its allies since the crisis of the Kuwait invasion five years ago.

What makes it even more important is that it reflects a new trend in the Iraqi leadership, toward political openness and doing everything possible to end the blockade, ease the people's suffering, and overcome all the negative aspects and legacies of the past which entrenched differences and opened the way for hostile foreign powers to exploit them, striking at national unity and harping on the contradictions in order to weaken everyone without exception.

The general amnesty has clearly come in manifestation of an Iraqi desire to implement all UN resolutions to eliminate the last card held by the United States to maintain the blockade, including the article in Resolution 688 of 5 April 1991 calling for dialogue and preservation of human rights.

Ten days ago the Iraqi leadership released two U.S. prisoners sentenced to eight years for crossing the border without permission, after an appeal from President Bill Clinton conveyed by a U.S. senator. What the two men said about the good treatment they received in Iraqi prisons was a rare admission.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

After that release came the recent cabinet reshuffle in which 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and Watban al-Tikriti were ousted from the government as an indication that Iraq was preparing for a shift from the Gulf war phase and the firmness and control that that required to the next phase which requires more new civilian ministers more capable of sensing people's needs and of starting a new page in dealing [with others].

It is not yet known how the Iraqi opposition, especially the patriotic and honest factions, will react to that amnesty step, which seriously puts them to the test wherever they may be.

The credibility of any opposition stems from the extent of its contribution to the salvation of Iraq, alleviation of the people's suffering, and confrontation of the dangers threatening them, not its endeavor to seize power by any means including dependence on the very same imperialist powers which are starving the Iraqi people and trying to weaken them and tear them apart.

We wish the patriotic and honorable Iraqi opposition would rise to this challenge, demonstrate how much it cares about its country, and return to the homeland to participate in building it and to share the people's difficulties and concerns instead of living abroad in luxury and talking about economic difficulties and the rising dollar, as if the people suffering from this tragedy are not their own people.

The fact that we welcome that general amnesty does not mean that we believe it to be the end of the road. We hope that it is just an introduction to other steps in the same context such as initiating extensive dialogues with all Iraqi patriotic blocs which have disagreed with the regime and its policies, on the basis of the general interest and of a wider scope of freedoms including the freedom of expression.

Iraq has stood fast against the biggest destruction operation known in history, and it needs all its sons to pick it up, dress its wounds, and restore its position on the regional and international maps. It seems to have begun moving in that direction.

Talabani Bans Kurds From Taking Amnesty

JN0308201295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The special correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in al-Sulaymaniyah reported that hundreds of Kurdish youths, both defaulters and deserters of military service, have begun to report to military recruitment centers outside the Autonomous Region, particularly in al-Ta'mim Governorate, to benefit from the amnesty decision pardoning the fugitives.

The correspondent added that after taking notice of that, Jalal Talabani's group began to prevent youths from reporting to recruitment centers in al-Sulaymaniyah to benefit from the general amnesty decision. These youths were mistreated and some of them were beaten and insulted.

An armed group of Jalalists stormed the township of Sarjinar in al-Sulaymaniyah and arrested several people on charges of instigating against Jalal's party, including Kamal Ramzi and 'Abd Salih.

The agency's correspondent in Irbil said that clashes were still going on between the Jalalists and the Bazanists around Rawandoz and in an area northeast of Shaqlawah, but that the clashes have been sporadic over the past two days. It seems that the two sides are preparing for a new round of battle.

Kurdish Parties Meet, Discuss Plans To End Crisis

JN0308161195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1825 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salah al-Din — With the aim of initiating dialogue and objective discussion of the ideas and proposals presented by the national groupings and personalities, a meeting was held between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and eight Kurdish parties at KDP headquarters at 1100 today, Wednesday, 2 August 1995. Brothers Falak-al-Din al-Kakay, (Faranso Hariri), (Tom Agril), and (Nizam-al-Din Gilu) attended the meeting. Efforts at home and elsewhere to solve the current problem in Kurdistan and to rescue our people from this ordeal were discussed. The conferees also discussed plans and proposals presented by the eight Kurdistan parties in a manner that serves the people of Kurdistan. The meeting lasted about two hours.

KDP Official on U.S. Initiative, PUK Attacks

JN0108120195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and official in charge of the KDP Central Media Bureau, has granted an important interview to the KDP central weekly KHABAT, in which he shed light on the U.S. initiative and our party's support for it. Given the importance of the interview which will be published in edition 770 of KHABAT to be issued tomorrow, 1 August, the KDP media organs took the initiative of airing the text of this interview through their various channels. Dear listeners: The following is the text of the interview Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman has granted to the weekly KHABAT.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The KDP is pursuing quiet diplomacy. The key to a final solution lies in restoring legitimacy. The U.S. interest lies in ending infighting and finding a just and lasting political solution. These goals are in line with our people's interests.

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the KDP Political Bureau, has said that the KDP is pursuing quiet diplomacy, which he described as successful. He added that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] leaders are confusing diplomacy with media charlatanism. He made these remarks in reply to questions posed by KHABAT about the latest developments pertaining to the U.S. initiative to resolve the crisis in Iraqi Kurdistan. He went on to say: The KDP has welcomed the U.S. initiative. It is attaching great importance to it. The U.S. interest lies in ending the infighting and finding a just and lasting solution to the existing problems. With regard to the truce which the PUK leaders have said has been violated, no truce has been reached or agreed on since the PUK violated the previous truce on the night of 8/9 July 1995, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said. For any cease-fire to be agreed to, certain conditions have to be met.

When queried about the nature of the U.S. initiative, Sami 'Abd- al-Rahman said: We welcome the U.S. initiative, which aims to eliminate the conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan. We attache great importance to it. The United States is interested in the humanitarian situation created by the fighting. Moreover, the United States believes that this fighting is detrimental to its interests. This means that the U.S. interest lies in ending the infighting and finding a just and lasting solution to the existing problems. We believe that these goals are in line with our people's interests. Whatever promotes our people's interests is championed by the KDP. The interests of the Kurdish people in this regard converge with the U.S. interests. This is highly significant.

On how the U.S. initiative envisages the implementation of any future agreement, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: It is extremely important that the United States has committed itself to the creation of a local mechanism to supervise the implementation of any agreement that could be reached. This means that the Americans will put their weight, which is really big, behind the efforts to reach and implement a reasonable agreement. This is another aspect that lends credence to this important initiative.

When asked about PUK claims that the KDP has set conditions for the acceptance of the U.S. initiative, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: Our party has not set any conditions for the acceptance of the U.S. initiative. As a matter of fact, we have submitted a practical proposal to render this initiative a success. On top of these proposals is a proposal that the KDP and the PUK meet at the political bureaus' level to draft a reasonable, fair, and enforceable agreement. This is evidence of our party's seriousness and its efforts to render the initiative a success. The U.S. side has endorsed this proposal, because it is serious and practical. Meanwhile, the other side, the PUK, has, as usual, accepted the initiative as it is. It has failed to submit any relevant practical proposals, as it did with the Iraqi National Congress [INC] initiative, which enjoyed the support of David Lake, head of the North Gulf Section at the U.S. State Department, in January 95. The PUK fully endorsed this initiative on 25 January 1995, and utterly disavowed it on 31 January 1995. Then, the PUK submitted its own proposal to resolve the crisis. This proposal basically aimed to torpedo the INC initiative.

In his remarks on the KDP's proposals regarding the new U.S. initiative, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: We have demanded that the party that violated the cease-fire that has held up to the night of 8/9 July be identified. Both sides committed themselves to honoring this cease-fire before the U.S. envoy who visited Kurdistan in early July. Both sides had previously pledged to the Islamic Republic of Iran to extend the truce for one more month after 15 July. However, and as you must be well aware, the PUK violated the truce on the eight of 8/9 July. We believe that the demand for identifying the aggressor is legitimate. The identification of the aggressor would deter the party that could entertain the notion of violating the cease-fire, or any future agreement for that matter. No wonder that the PUK does not support the demand that the party that violated the truce be identified. The party that violated the truce is known to everybody.

In response to a question by KHABAT about the PUK's deliberate questioning of the KDP's stance, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: We have welcomed the U.S. initiative, as I have told you. KDP Leader brother Mas'ud Barzani has responded favorably to this initiative, as the Americans have acknowledged. Our party is serious about these negotiations, and deems their success extremely important for the Kurdish issue. We believe that these negotiations reflect the renewed U.S. commitment to our people. We will do our utmost to render the initiative a success. We believe that the key to a final solution to the crisis lies in restoring legitimacy and the Parliament once the problem pertaining to the capital city of Irbil is resolved.

When asked by KHABAT about the date set for the start of the negotiations, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: I would like to say that the KDP is pursuing quiet diplomacy. Moreover, I would like to say with confidence that this diplomacy is successful. For diplomacy to be successful,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

it has to be quiet. This is extremely important. The PUK is confusing diplomacy with media charlatanism. It slanders the countries, parties, or figures whose performance they deem unsatisfactory. The PUK either kisses hands or causes mischief. In contrast, when our ties with a certain country or party at any time deteriorate, we do not resort to slander campaigns. We make our attitude known to the party concerned, and seize the earliest opportunity to improve our ties with it on the basis of common interests and mutual respect.

As usual, the PUK has announced several dates for the start of the negotiations. Time has proven its statements in this regard to be baseless. As far as I am concerned, I believe that the negotiations could be held in the second half of August.

KHABAT asked 'Abd-al-Rahman about the claims made by the PUK media organs and leaders about the violation of a new truce by the KDP. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman indicated that since the violation of the truce on the night of 8/9 July by the PUK, no new truce has been reached or agreed up. Despite the abysmal failure of the PUK attacks since the night of 8/9 July, and despite the grave losses the PUK has sustained, losses unseen in 15 years, the PUK attacks have not ceased. They have continued to build up troops on all contact axes up to this date. It is to be recalled that their attacks are steadily weakening. With each passing night, they grow weaker. This is because their gunmen have lost the motivation to get engaged in offensives. Hence, PUK leaders have begun to use coercion with the unfortunate gunmen to push them to the battlefield. The military balance has tilted in favor of the Kurdish peshmerga, the sons of the KDP and Barzani. This has become clear. Talabani violated the truce on the night of 8/9 July. He and his generals deluded themselves into believing that they could achieve all their military goals within three or four days. Since then, the fighting has continued, their troop buildup has remained unchanged, and their attacks have continued. Whenever they had the chance, they carried out attacks, although they have sustained defeat.

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman went on to say: No new truce has been reached or agreed upon since then. What truce or violation are these people talking about? Their statements to this effect are a repetition of incoherent remarks. Their appeals for parties, agencies, and figures to intervene to end the fighting have come to reflect their increasing losses in combat.

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said that any cease-fire agreement must have certain components. Such components are often mediated with a third party to ensure agreement on certain conditions. Certain times have to be agreed and endorsed by the highest leadership echelons. None of this has happened thus far.

Lastly, when asked about the KDP officials who will attend the talks with the PUK, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said that nothing final has been decided in this regard. This will be decided at a KDP Political Bureau meeting to be held very soon.

PUK Peshmergas Reportedly Defeat KDP Attack

NC0208160995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from steadfast Rawanduz, thousands of gunmen belonging to the traitor [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP] leadership at 0630 this morning launched an attack from several directions against the courageous Kurdistan peshmerga positions with guns, rocket launchers, and other weapons that that party's agent leadership received from their masters, the enemies of the Kurdish people.

The peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] stood up to them. In a heroic defensive battle, the courageous PUK forces succeeded in smashing the attacking troops and forcing them to retreat, chased by curses.

'Flagrant' U.S. Intervention in North Assailed

JN0108123195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0809 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has strongly criticized the U.S. hostility toward Iraq and the continued flagrant U.S. intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs.

In an article today, the paper warns against the dangers posed to regional security by U.S. policies, saying: The continued U.S. support for warring factions in Iraqi Kurdistan will expose the region to unfavorable consequences.

The paper adds: The irrational U.S. policies have effectively contributed to clashes between warring factions in the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan, and pushed them to destroy the region economically and sabotage social and human relations there against the backdrop of the absence of central authority and the rule of law upheld by the state of Iraq through its constitutional institutions.

The paper recalls the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist scheme for the region and the support this scheme enjoys from neighboring states, saying: Holding meetings between representatives of the U.S. State Department and officials of the warring factions, or inviting these

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

officials to Washington contravenes respect for peoples' free will and their right to make independent decisions, which are acknowledged by the international community and its organizations in recognition of the UN Charter, which spells out rules regarding the management of international relations.

Concluding, the paper says: The United States will realize that the delusions it has nursed and the lies and falsehoods it has promoted will collapse in the face of the steadfastness of our Kurdish people, who are about to triumph over the warring factions that are dominating our people in the region.

Opposition Leaders Cited on Damascus Meeting

MM0308111795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 95

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Samarra'i: The Conference Works in Accordance With the American Options"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Mohamad Baqer Hakim, President of the "Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution" [of Iran], presided in Damascus yesterday over an enlarged meeting of the Iraqi opposition forces and organizations to discuss how to bolster the opposition's activity in the coming stage.

Hakim addressed an invitation to all elements of the various nationalist, Islamic, and Kurdish currents of the Iraqi opposition in Damascus to attend the aforementioned meeting. But the former chief of Iraqi Military Intelligence, staff Major General Wafiq al- Samarra'i, declined to attend the meeting. He told AL-HAYAH that the reason for this was that he had to go to Lebanon. He added that he supports "the forces that look to an Arab identity for the future of Iraq." He expressed his belief that "the National Iraqi Conference" is working in accordance with "American options."

Sources of the "Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution" have affirmed to AL-HAYAH that during the Damascus meeting Hakim explained his views "on the opposition movement in the future and the need for the unification of outlooks on other methods of operation, as some people have suggested the formation of a national front while others have proposed the formation of a committee or a field command for action."

The official in charge of foreign affairs in the Iraqi "National Action Coordination Committee," Mahdi al-Ubaydi, has told AL-HAYAH that their outlook consists of "demanding the formation of a wide national front which would embrace all nationalist, Islamic, Kurdish and democratic currents." He reaffirmed that there is no relation between them and the "Unified Iraqi National Conference."

Sources of the Kurdistani National Union Party (led by Jalal Talabani) have stated to AL-HAYAH that Hakim proposed "the formation of a field command to concentrate on internal military affairs and that he explained in detail his views in this regard." The sources added that the opposition's efforts are directed toward coming up "with a new formula for action which will not replace the National Conference, which will continue to exist with all the parties that participated in it, including the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution led by Hakim." However, other opposition sources have stated that "efforts are being exerted for the creation of an organization that would replace the National Conference, which has failed to achieve the desired successes."

Al-Samarra'i said that he has decided to reside in Damascus, despite the fact that he attaches "special importance" to his presence in northern Iraq. He denied that he has any intention to open a bureau for the "Iraqi National Movement" in the Syrian capital, because, he said, its headquarters should be in northern Iraq. He accused members of the Conference of acting in accordance "with the impotent [qasirah] American options" in the region.

In his statement to AL-HAYAH in Damascus, al-Samarra'i affirmed that he came to Syria about a month ago and from there has paid a number of "secret" visits to a number of Arab and non-Arab countries. He added: "I have decided to live in Syria. But I attach special importance to my presence in northern Iraq, as we have made good progress there so far, and our actions extend into the interior of Iraq, and the ranks of the Iraqi armed forces, the Iraqi Ba'th Party,and other sections of society."

He said that he believes that internecine fighting among the Kurds "only impedes our national activities. However, we in the Iraqi National Movement base our program on the clear principles that our struggle with (President) Saddam Husayn is a radical struggle and that we do not support politicized sectarianism but only an Iraq that is democratic, free, united and having an Arab identity."

With regard to his refusal to meet with Hakim, who is in Damascus, al-Samarra'i said: "My sudden departure on a secret visit to an Arab state in the region prevented me from going to this meeting. But I support nationalist trends in the opposition and uphold the forces that look to a future Iraq with an Arab identity." He pointed out that the program of the "Iraqi National Movement"

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stresses "Iraq's identity, its territorial integrity, its independent decisionmaking, its democratic system of government, its not being in the hands of others, and its keeping away of political sectarianism."

About his role during the Iraqi-Iranian war (1980-1988), al- Samarra'i said: "My task by virtue of my position was a patriotic and very clean one, as I was responsible for intelligence matters relating to Iran. So all I could do in this regard was to be loyal to my homeland irrespective of who started the war, because we were confronted with difficult choices."

He added that he has recently met with parties of the Kurdish opposition and "I expressed to them my hope that the unified national conference had achieved success, although in fact the conference did not depart from the circle it runs in and which has alienated it from the others." Al-Samarra'i expressed his belief that the conference was working "in accordance with American options." However, he added, "we are not against betting on America if its option would help our people to rid themselves of Saddam. But we feel that these options are impotent. We hope this is due to an unintentional error in judging the situation" in Iraq.

MKO Reportedly Clashes With Saddam Opponents

LD3007160495 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ilam, July 30, IRNA — Members of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) recently fired at the opponents of Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, the voice of the Armed Forces Radio affiliated to the Iraqi National Opposition Congress announced on Friday [28 July].

The radio added that after the shooting, the Iraqi opposition forces clashed with the members of the MKO grouplet, but gave no detail of possible casualties and the date of the clash.

The accident occurred after Iraqi opposition forces pounded with missiles the MKO headquarters in the outskirt of Baghdad, killing three of its members described by the AFP as officials of the MKO.

MKO members, who call themselves Saddam's soldiers and act as his mercenaries, are partly responsible for internal security of Iraq and Baghdad in particular.

In the 1991 Iraqi people's uprising, during which many Iraqi people were killed, the MKO greatly helped the Iraqi security and military forces in their crimes.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN3107134495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 31 Jul (INA)—Iraq's representative at the United Nations has addressed a protest memorandum to the UN secretary general on violations of Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation, and the dropping of flares.

In his memorandum yesterday, Iraq's representative said that the aforementioned aircraft carried out 674 air sorties over many areas in the country during the period of 11-20 July.

He requested that the memorandum be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

'Real Motives' Behind Clinton 'Hostility' Explained

JN0408081195 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1755 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] What makes the U.S. Administration, represented by President Bill Clinton, insist on a position that is superseded by international changes? This U.S. position is an isolationist feature of those who are taking it.

Moreover, what are the objectives of U.S. policy, represented by adherence to the continued blockade imposed on Iraq? What are the internal political reasons for President Clinton's attempt to renew the hostility toward Iraq, which was expressed in his periodic message to the Congress?

These questions derive their legitimacy from an objective contemplation of the conflict among the branches of power in the United States. This conflict reveals a sharp contradiction between the Congress, which is controlled by the Republicans, and the Democratic administration, which is led by Clinton.

Reports leaking from Washington indicate that the differences between the two sides do not threaten the activities of the executive branch. They threaten the legislative branch with halting its activities. President Clinton threatens to use his constitutional powers to veto at least five bills endorsed by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives out of 13 bills addressing financial appropriations for the fiscal year that begins on 1 October 1995.

Among President Clinton's threats was the hint at vetoing the bill rejecting the financial appropriations for congressional activities as well as the salaries of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

congressmen and their aides. The Congress recently endorsed this bill.

Sources close to the Congress see this threat as an attempt to embarrass the members of the legislative branch in order to pass the financial bills which were submitted by the U.S. Administration. Under this climate, which is full of accusations, some political circles have interpreted President Clinton's message to the Congress as an attempt to create a suffocating political crisis by arguing that President Saddam Husayn's policies are threatening U.S. national security and foreign policy.

The same circles also believe that by adopting the message prepared by the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Administration, the U.S. president has called for flattering this lobby, which enjoys influence in the U.S. political institutions, as part of his plan to be reelected for a second presidential term.

This can explain the real motives behind inflaming hostility toward Iraq. Through this hostility, which is led by him, President Clinton seeks to satisfy the Zionist lobby in the United States in order to achieve electoral gains and restore some features of the lost internal unity.

The U.S. Administration and its head are confident that the international vision is now clear and that loud voices have begun to call for rectifying an erroneous situation which resulted from the imposition of unjust international resolutions. These resolutions sentenced 20 million Iraqis to death by starvation.

Al-Sahhaf Views Regional Ties, Germ Program

NC0308110095 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Jul p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by 'Imad-al-Din Husayn Ahmad Murad in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Murad] The climate surrounding your current visit to Cairo is different from previous visits. Why?

[Al-Sahhaf] I agree. There are signs and circumstances helping this climate and working toward Arab solidarity.

[Murad] Have any specific steps been taken to restore this elusive solidarity?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is an expression of desire and a recognition that the time has come to take steps. But, as far as I know, there has been no talk of specific steps. There is a more positive general atmosphere but it is confined to expressions and feelings, which may translate into steps soon. As far as Iraq is concerned, there is no pressure on us. If an Arab state takes one step toward us, we will take two steps toward it. We are prepared to exchange positive steps with any Arab party that has negative relations with us right now.

[Murad] Have your unpublicized talks with Minister 'Amr Musa produced specific results? Where do Egyptian-Iraqi relations stand?

[Al-Sahhaf] We offered Egypt full relations with the United Nations and the full implementation of all the resolutions. [previous sentence as published] On the official level, relations are severed. There are interests sections. Relations are cordial. More importantly, there is a desire to develop relations between the two sides.

[Murad] Five years after August 1990 how does the ordinary Iraqi citizen perceive Egypt and the Egyptians?

[Al-Sahhaf] Throughout history there has been real amity between the Egyptians and the Iraqis. Even when the atmosphere gets clouded, this does not affect the feelings of the two peoples. But there is concern that we are losing time. If they cooperate they can transform an arid land into gardens. The Iraqis are waiting for the blockade to be lifted to receive all Arab and Egyptian expertise and manpower.

[Murad] But, Minister, there is a recent Iraqi decision on employment and confining it to contract holders. This in practice will lead to the expulsion of most Egyptian workers in Iraq. Does this not affect relations between the two peoples, especially as most Egyptians in Iraq are craftsmen?

[Al-Sahhaf] Laws are issued and implemented for a reason. Employment in Iraq is haphazard and disorganized. Our aim is to organize things, especially as we live under a blockade. When the blockade ends, the land of Iraq and its capabilities will be assimilated and will need millions of Arabs and Egyptians. The law will be replaced in line with the new circumstances. Generally speaking, Iraqi law apportions the same rights and duties to Arab and Iraqi citizens.

[Murad] There is concern in Egypt that Kuwait's example will be repeated in Iraq. In other words, once the blockade is lifted, priority will be given to Western and American companies in reconstruction and development projects.

[Al-Sahhaf] I can assure you there is no similarity between the two examples. We are not a consumer society to invite foreign companies to lay a carpet in our house. The land of Iraq will be for the Arabs. The companies, contracts, and manpower must be Arab. Priority will be given to the brothers in Egypt, especially as there is previous experience between us. The post-blockade era will make Iraq a hive of activity. We

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

manufacture most of our needs. If we cannot, we seek the aid of the Arabs and, as a last resort, the foreigners. Finally, I ask why do the Egyptian private and public companies not hasten to make offers and go to Iraq, as the Europeans are doing now?

[Murad] Have the Americans, like the Europeans, contacted you in search of contracts for companies in the post-blockade era?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, this has happened. Hundreds of companies of various nationalities have contacted us. Their eyes are on the Iraqi market, whether to buy Iraqi oil or to sell us what we need and what we cannot manufacture.

[Murad] There are Egyptian prisoners in Iraqi jails and a presidential decree was issued to release them but was not implemented. Yet two American prisoners were released. Do you not think that freeing the Egyptians would be a goodwill gesture?

[Al-Sahhaf] I have no up-to-date information. To my knowledge, the law does not discriminate between Iraqis and Egyptians. In a large society we are bound to have good and bad people and getting cohesion between the two nations involves sacrifices.

As for the release of the two Americans, they were freed following a plea by President Clinton and Congress.

[Murad] Your story with the Security Council has entered a stage of frivolity. Lately you have mentioned a deadline of the end of August. What are your practical capabilities to implement the deadline and your ability to hold out?

[Al-Sahhaf] We can hold out indefinitely. The issue in brief is that there are unjust resolutions passed by the Security Council, as everyone acknowledges. But we accepted them because we knew their provisions did not contain a concealed and malicious program to destroy Iraq, and we acted according to these resolutions, even though they were tough.

There is a condition that if we implement a program to get rid of any weapons of mass destruction, the special committee will report on this to the Security Council, which would lift the embargo on oil exports. All this has been done, apart from the biological file, which is due to be completed by late August.

Since we have accepted and implemented the resolutions, we must continue the process to the end. If they lift the blockade, well and good; if they do not, we will halt all dealings with them, we will say goodbye to them, we will take care of ourselves and do what we can. According to our assessment, the blockade will collapse, because the world realizes we have done more than we were asked to do.

[Murad] Iraq has long depended on the game of contradiction between the United States and France, Russia, and China at the Security Council on lifting the blockade. Are you still pursuing this attempt despite achieving no practical result?

[Al-Sahhaf] I do not call it a game. There is a bill put forward to the Council by the three countries [not further specified] and nine other member countries of the Council awaiting a vote after Ekeus' mission is over. We deal with facts. They wrote the resolutions and now want to evade them. We are acting according to these resolutions and naturally everyone is acting in his own interests. If our interests converge with other interests, why do we not benefit from them?

[Murad] What do you see as the prospects for the vote on lifting the blockade at the end of August after the biological file is closed? What if the United States uses its veto as it has done every other time?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are only two possibilities. Either the United States submits to the Security Council's will and agrees to lift the embargo under Section B of Resolution 687 or it breaks away from the majority. In this case the blockade will collapse, not by a resolution from the Council but through means outside the Council.

[Murad] Which of the two is more likely to materialize?

[Al-Sahhaf] According to my assessment the blockade will end by a Security Council resolution and U.S. consent, that is, on lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports.

[Murad] There have been numerous reports of Iraqi-Israeli contacts in various places as a way for Iraq to near Washington via the Tel Aviv gate.

[Al-Sahhaf] All this uproar aimed at defaming Iraq's reputation is baseless. It seems the one who has been tarnished wants others to be tarnished as well.

[Murad] But reports spoke of specific venues for these contacts in Morocco and Europe. Has no one, not even the Israelis, taken the initiative to contact you?

[Al-Sahhaf] This has never happened. This issue is baseless; it represents clamor, which we utterly detest.

[Murad] What is the story of the unfinished biological file involving you and the Security Council and the Ekeus committee?

[Al-Sahhaf] This file does not represent difficulty, because it differs from other armament programs. We started this program at the end of 1985. During this

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

program Iraqi scientists created and formed germs. But the process of creating these components ['anasir] and turning them into weapons is a long one. Between 1985 and October 1990 germ components were created. When the Kuwait crisis occurred, we found we had dangerous material but no weapon. What could we do with it? If it was stored and subjected to bombardment, it would cause disaster. So the scientists decided to destroy it. Thus, the biological program ended.

When the work of the special committee began in 1991, they did not concentrate on this file and they closed it in 1993. The Security Council was informed of this. In 1994 we were surprised when this file was reopened on the pretext that to install a monitoring system for Iraqi factories, the committee needed to know about all previous programs. They told us: We want you to tell us the whole story in full and with proof. We told them: We have destroyed the proof. They said: We want proof. So we started this on 1 July. Work will end before the end of August, when the committee will complete its work and submit a final report to the Security Council.

[Murad] Is there anything regarding the effect of the blockade on living conditions?

[Al-Sahhaf] The blockade has created a terrible imbalance between supply and demand and prices have risen astronomically. All this has affected low-income people, who can no longer afford basic commodities. This unprecedented blockade includes food and medicine, because it robs you of your funds to buy things. But Iraq has persevered. Suffice to say, we have dug big rivers; the Saddam River is 654 km long, 50 metres wide, and 12 metres deep and there are three other rivers to regulate irrigation. The cultivated area has increased twofold. Iraq will achieve self-sufficiency in food, especially in wheat. We have rebuilt all that the evildoers destroyed. We have rebuilt all the destroyed oil refineries as well as the entire electricity network. Power supplies are never disrupted now. After they dropped 107,000 tons of explosives, we rebuilt everything. Suffice to say, Iraq started new projects one year ago.

[Murad] There has been talk of relations between Tehran and Baghdad, such that some have spoken of an Iranian-Iraqi-Sudanese axis. What is the truth?

[Al-Sahhaf] All this talk is a lie to peddle a particular situation, as happened with the straining of Egyptian-Sudanese relations. There is no Iranian-Iraqi rapprochement. What has been taking place between us in the past two years has been a struggle to solve outstanding problems following the eight-year war. These contacts began after the armed struggle and the failure and collapse of Iran's so-called program to export the Islamic revolution. Awareness has increased in Iran and Iraq that keeping things tense is not in our interest. Within this context, I met Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati three times—in Cairo, Karachi, and New York. We exchanged visits with delegations. The aim is to draw up an agenda of the points that need to be solved. The first step is for Velayati to visit Baghdad but he has postponed his visit seven times. Maybe the visit will take place soon.

[Murad] Some people say there is a trend within Iran and perhaps in Iraq hampering the normalization of relations and cooperation.

[Al-Sahhaf] In Iraq, where decisions are clear and supported by everyone, this is impossible. Perhaps this might be happening in Iran in light of the presence of the so-called moderates and extremists.

Generally, I believe that what will happen with Iran will not go beyond normalizing bilateral relations. We have repeatedly clarified that our policy is pan-Arab and firm. In the case of any dispute between any Arab party and Iran, we side with the Arab party. Besides, we do not concur with the Iranians on several regional and world issues.

We might cooperate within OPEC on fixing oil prices or within the Nonaligned Movement to strengthen the movement but we go no further than that. Our policy is pan-Arab and conflicts with Iran. Even though there have been changes in Iran's approach to exporting the revolution to Iraq and then to Lebanon and in its alliance with Syria, the principle of exporting [the revolution] still exists in the minds of some of the regime leaders there.

There are many issues and topics between us the resolution of which requires cooperation; there are the prisoners, calming the borders and Shatt al-'Arab, and security understanding on nonaggression. Anything more is difficult. As to what will happen after normalization, this is premature.

[Murad] Fighting among the Kurds in the north is continuing. Is there anything new about your contacts with them?

[Al-Sahhaf] After 1991 the Iraqi Administration withdrew from the north and the West is now using Turkish territory to practice what is called protection of the Kurds.

When the Kurds rebelled, we chased them and they fled to Turkey from where they sent messages proposing dialogue and their return. We told them they were welcome and, with them, reached a new formula for self-rule in August 1991. They said the plan achieves 80 percent of their demands and we told them this

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

expansion in self- rule was part of a larger process in Iraq, including the charting of a permanent constitution, multiparty system, free press, parliamentary elections, and direct election of the president of the Republic.

This plan remains valid but Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani said he would ask Washington first. The Americans told him: "We prevent you from doing this". This is where things stand now.

Now Kurdish citizens in the north ask us every day to return; they have seen the overwhelming chaos there as a result of reliance on the West and the fighting between the Barzani and Talabani factions. To us, the issue is not just their return, but convincing the rebels to return to the national fold and that depending on foreigners is useless.

[Murad] What about Turkey? Is it true that you allowed it to launch an operation to pursue the opposition Kurdistan Workers Party members?

[Al-Sahhaf] These are rumors against us to tarnish our image before the Kurds in the north. What is known is that we do not do anything in the north and can do nothing, but condemn and denounce.

The problem with the Turks is that they contradict themselves and move in a vicious circle because they have participated in the U.S. plot against northern Iraq. Northern Iraq has turned into a place for arms and drug trafficking. Kurdistan Workers Party fighters receive training and prepare themselves to fight Ankara in this area.

Instead of realizing its contradiction, Turkey sent its army to northern Iraq. We have cautioned Ankara that the day will come when they will pay for the contradiction. The West thinks chaos in the Kurdish north may spread elsewhere in Iraq; this is a failed scenario.

We also told the Turks to distance themselves from the Americans and that if the chaos in the north ends, the Kurdish rebellion against Ankara will collapse the next day. Then the north will be immune and will not be used as a place to launch operations against Turkey. But the problem is that Turkish politicians have been unable to say no to the United States.

Ekeus Interviewed on Sanctions, Visit

95LH0210A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 95 p 5

[Interview With Rolfe Ekeus, UN Special Commission Chairman, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given: "Rolfe Ekeus to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on Eve of His Departure to Baghdad: Iraqis Lose Greatly by Criticizing United States; Attacks on United States Delay Lifting of Sanctions"—first six paragraphs are AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York—Rolfe Ekeus, chairman of the special UN commission for the removal of Iraqi mass destruction weapons, arrived in Baghdad yesterday, heading a delegation from the commission at an invitation extended to him by phone by Lieutenant General Amir Rashid, head of the Iraqi Military Industrialization Authority. Rolfe Ekeus' arrival coincided with Baghdad's announcement that Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad al-Hububi had been dismissed from his position and that Lt. Gen. Amir Rashid was entrusted with his duties at the ministry.

Ekeus' current visit is his most important visit to Iraq because it follows Iraqi threats to suspend dealings with the commission unless it closes the chemical weapons file and missiles file in its report to the Security Council. But Ekeus has not closed these two files, even though he has talked in his latest report and in his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT with a positive note that is not familiar to his previous reports. But he has also emphasized the presence of details with which the commission has not yet dealt completely.

The new Iraqi invitation is based, according to what Ekeus was told in his previous visit, on the degree of positivism in this report. This means that Baghdad has seen positives in this report.

Ekeus will make clear demands in this trip because his visit will be no more than one and a half days long. The commission chairman wishes to see the Iraqis present during his visit the general political framework of their agreement to deal with this file so he can depart, leaving behind the experts to work on the necessary details.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has interviewed the UN official to ask him about these and other developments. Ekeus opened the conversation by talking about his approaching birthday. I asked him if the Iraqis will celebrate the occasion by lighting a candle in their homes for him as they do for their president. He answered seriously, "They certainly should because we do more than others to lift the blockade and to alleviate their hardship. There is one way to eliminate the sanctions, namely to convince all Security Council members that the armament programs problem has been resolved and that there are no deficiencies. The problem is with Iraq because we do not get the cooperation we need."

Following is the text of the interview:

[Matar] In your latest report, it is obvious that you have made a remarkable effort to highlight the positive aspects of the Iraqi dealings with you. There are those

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

who tie this outcome with the Iraqi threats that unless you close the missiles and chemical weapons files Baghdad will stop dealing with you. After the report, the Iraqis invited you to visit them. What has happened?

[Ekeus] I do not think I speak of anything other than the actual elements. Unless we make these elements clear, then we must forget the elimination or alleviation of sanctions. This is the first thing. Second, when we present something positive, then what we try to do is to present an idea of what has been and what has not been implemented. We then deal with what has not been implemented. The reason we have not been able to close the two files is the presence of some problems. We try to evaluate what remains unimplemented to find out if what is not implemented forms a persistent behavior reflecting an organized coverup or if it forms a basis for rebuilding the armament program concerned.

The conclusion we have made regarding these two files is that what remains is not significant enough to pose a threat to the objective of resolution 687 and that it is not a basis for reviving the program. This is a serious evaluation.

[Matar] Has this evaluation motivated Iraq to conclude that the report is positive and, consequently, to fulfill its promise-threat to either invite you to Baghdad after the report or to suspend its cooperation with you?

[Ekeus] Yes, this is true. We have before us the outcome of the work we have done. Our mission now is to deal with the biological issue. We are very concerned with this issue. I hope that we are wrong. However, the information we have at our disposal causes to worry. We would like to clarify these aspects. What is evident to date is that Iraq is prepared to continue its cooperation. However, we should ask again here: If the Iraqis refused to continue their cooperation, who would be the victim? It would not be the United Nations, and it would not be the special commission. The Iraqi people would be the victim.

[Matar] What prevents you from saying now that you have completed the chemicals and missiles files?

[Ekeus] We do not believe that what remains should influence whether an evaluation can or cannot be made on paragraphs 8, 9, and 10, which concern chemical weapons in the cease-fire resolution. This is important. We are a part of the Security Council, and the council members demand an evaluation. They want to know how we see the dimensions of what remains, what can remain, and what has been clarified.

[Matar] Iraq believes that your words and your efforts are political in nature.

[Ekeus] This is an incorrect assessment. What I say is not political. My report points out what has been done and what remains to be done. Certainly, the report does not include everything. Every report covers certain aspects. But, if you examine the last four or five reports and tie them to each other, then you would have a clear and complete picture of the issue—a picture that covers things such as where the problems lie, where question marks exist, and where progress has been made. All this involves a lot of information.

What are our powers? The Iraqis criticize us on a political basis. I find that this behavior is not intelligent and irresponsible. They do not gain any credibility with such criticism. Inversely, they lose greatly. Others may also criticize us, including some council members, but for different reasons, such as our being too flexible and soft on Iraq. These accusations are not based on specific information and facts. Our strength lies in our credibility and in the frankness of our employees.

Iraqi Threat

[Matar] You have said that what remains in the areas of Iraqi chemicals and missiles poses no threat. Can you clarify this to us?

[Ekeus] First, Iraq's current capabilities do not permit it to launch any offensive against its neighbors or against any country in the region, whether by missiles or otherwise. This is obvious.

However, I am eager to say that there can be no complete guarantee, and this is what we point out in our reports. There can be activity in an area that the Iraqis have not recorded or revealed. Here, we work on the basis of analyzing what Iraq has acquired, manufactured, and produced. We look at this and at what we have destroyed and then we try to find balance between the two sides. For example, we think that we are approaching this balance in the missiles area, especially Scud missiles that Iraq imported from the Soviet Union, which was Iraq's only source. We have calculated the final figure for these missiles, and now we can close this file. But what we cannot close in this area is connected with Iraq's own capability to produce machinery that can manufacture missiles, even though we have a good idea of Iraq's production capability and of its ability to produce in this regard.

As for chemicals, the problem has been somewhat more difficult, especially since new discoveries have been made on a program of a new kind. We have defined basic elements of this program, and they have been destroyed. This means that Iraq is incapable of producing this type of materials (VX Agent). We have

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

also discovered the source of other elements. This is why we do not believe that there is a threat to the region.

[Matar] Assuming that Iraq asked you to leave, would it then be able to produce these materials anew?

[Ekeus] Yes, and this answers the question as to why the file has not been closed. Iraq will need a long time to rebuild its program, if it so plans. But Iraq does not plan to do this. However, if we take the positive aspect of your question and if we remain there, then we can assure the international community that Iraq will not be able to revive its programs without our discovering them.

We have a comprehensive control system, and this system will become stronger and firmer when the sanctions are lifted.

[Matar] Your words focus on the period when you will continue to be present in Iraq whereas my question is based on the possibility of your expulsion. If you are expelled and the sanctions remain in place, then what is the period that Iraq needs before it poses a threat?

[Ekeus] If Iraq decides to ask us to leave the country, then it will be subjected to stiffer sanctions than those existing currently. This means that it will be difficult for Iraq to get the money it needs to become a threat.

Second, current Iraqi installations capable of producing other goods can restore their capacity to manufacture weapons. However, the alliance that confronted Iraq will not permit such a thing. If we put this issue aside, then Iraq can produce chemicals, but not sophisticated chemicals. It will be able to produce simple chemicals, such as mustard gas elements.

[Matar] You told me sometime ago that Saddam Husayn has turned from a major leader to just a small armed element. But, despite the increasing number of Iraqi voices calling for suspending cooperation with the commission and despite the recent reports about a coup attempt, Saddam is still in power. To what degree, do you think, he still controls the reins in Iraq?

[Ekeus] It might not be appropriate for me to discuss this matter. But I believe that insofar as dealing with us is concerned, the government still controls the reins.

[Matar] When you visited Baghdad nearly a month ago, Tariq Aziz made a special appeal to you, and this appeal is connected with the criticism to which he is subjected by those who call for suspending dealings with the commission. Do you perceive a change in Baghdad?

[Ekeus] The commission has undoubtedly encountered severe criticism, which creates the feeling that Iraq is not serious in dealing with the commission. Any criticism of the sort against the commission and the United Nations will only contribute to delay in lifting the sanctions and to increased difficulties for Iraq. This is a self-defeating policy that contradicts the basic line adopted by the wiser officials in Iraq. I can say that Tariq Aziz is one the wiser Iraqi officials involved in the endeavor to resolve problems through cooperation. I believe hat this is the only way and that it demands patience. I, personally, am patient also.

[Matar] But you can see that Tariq Aziz's opinion is moving away from the general policy, especially if we consider the issue of the recent resolution 986. Do you think that Aziz is still as influential as he used to be?

[Ekeus] I do not know. I am talking about him as a leader of that group in Iraq that talks wisely. His evaluations are good. I do not know what he says domestically. But my assessment is that he is experiencing progress and setbacks in his position. However, he persists in his sound line, which urges continued cooperation.

[Matar] Why doesn't Iraq cooperate with you on biological weapons?

[Ekeus] This is difficult for us to understand. There are big question marks. Iraq realizes that there are major issues that have not been clarified to us. Perhaps this is because they have convinced themselves that it is no use to them to cooperate in the biological area. This failure to cooperate will open the door for another problem to emerge. They do not understand this.

[Matar] Do you think that one of the reasons is the involvement of certain Iraqi individuals in this issue and the new floodgates that such involvement would open?

[Ekeus] We do not know. The facts available to us on biological weapons are embodied in a series of import transactions that could form a complete production program involving a major armament program. We do not know whether Iraq used these capabilities for production or whether it still stores and guards them. If they have done this, then what is the biological program's objective? Is it to replace the chemical program, or has it been concurrent with the programs that began with the end of the Iraq-Iran war and continued after that war ended? They believe that this program is the last bargaining card they hold and that they will not hand it over before the political problems are resolved.

[Matar] Do you feel apprehensive about what is being said regarding the possibility of an Iraqi-Iranian alliance?

[Ekeus] No, absolutely not. We are talking now about my political belief that the Gulf countries must cooperate with each other. This is beneficial to their common

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

interests, and especially to the removal of their threats against each other. The aggression against Kuwait was a serious violation of the rules of cooperation. The Iraq-Iran war was another tragic case.

[Matar] Do you share the U.S. apprehensions concerning Iranian nuclear armament?

[Ekeus] This is beyond my sphere of action. However, I believe that the idea of exporting nuclear capabilities to Iran was not a very bright idea. But I understand that this idea has been pushed aside for the time being. The only way to deal in this area is embodied in cooperation and in the open export of technology.

[Matar] Do you think that the Russians expose themselves to danger by supplying Iran with a nuclear weapon?

[Ekeus] As I have said, this will not be a very bright idea. However, the situation in Russia is different now.

[Matar] Do you advocate some sort of sanctions against Iran?

[Ekeus] No, I am not talking of sanctions. I am talking of open trade and the controlled transfer of technology.

[Matar] Has the United States agreed to the final details of this program for Iraq?

[Ekeus] No, not to date.

[Matar] You have spent nearly four years dealing with this issue without meeting with the Iraqi president to date. Have you asked to meet him?

[Ekeus] Yes, I asked to meet him twice: Once in the summer of 1992 when we encountered a serious development in front of the Ministry of Agriculture premises. I felt then that a major threat was developing and that it required dealing with the top leadership levels to release our representatives who were detained there. I know I was right in my evaluation of the dangers at the time. But no meeting took place. Fortunately, the problem was resolved. The second time was at the beginning of this year. This request was not even answered.

Mother of Battles Radio Defines Purpose

JN0308100995 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] O masses, militant youths, and glorious women of the Arab nation: Why the Mother of Battles Radio? The Mother of Battles Radio is a pan-Arab, popular radio inspired by the spirit of the immortal Mother of Battles. It is intended to fill a vacuum about which everyone of us has complained, we the Arabs who have not yielded to the threats of power and have not submitted to the will of enemies of its awakening and unity. Through their sacrifices and aspirations, they have managed to keep the door of the future open. Introducing itself to you, this pan-Arab radio is a voice of the Arab nation, which has remained without voice except the voice of the Mother of Battles, the grand epic in our contemporary history.

Naturally, such a high and ambitious undertaking will raise so many questions: Who stands behind it? What guarantees that this radio will not repeat the previous mistakes known to this nation or that it will not be emotional? What guarantees that it will not be short-lived and short-sighted? Will it quench the thirst of the masses of the nation for the voice of truth, principles, and faith and confidence in God? There are so many questions, reflecting a variety of anxious, suspicious, or (word indistinct) stands. In general, these are legitimate questions under the circumstances experienced by our nation. Nonetheless, the only legitimate answer that can lead to confidence in this radio and reassurance about the soundness of this orientation, sincerity of its objectives, and its reflection of the need to immunize, solidify, and [word indistinct] pan-Arab awareness is the answer stemming from the vital assimilation of the identity of the Mother of Battles and [words indistinct] this nation's profound readiness to confront all challenges [words indistinct) and its unity, be they domestic or foreign challenges.

The Mother of Battles radio is related only to the spirit of the Mother of Battles and is affiliated only with its major principles and definitions which strengthened the nation's self-confidence and [word indistinct]. The Mother of Battles has not been a single chapter in the chapters of the crucial historic confrontation between the nation and the enemies of its progress toward realizing its comprehensive civilized project. Rather, before anything else, it is a [word indistinct]. It can only be understood in light of this fact, which is the ultimate expression of the nation's new birth through struggle and jihad to confront the enemies of Arab existence, destiny, and future. The Mother of Battles is looking for a means of communication between its spirit and the greater Arab homeland in the east and the west. The Mother of battles is the voice of the nation, the voice of the pan-Arab consciousness, the voice of Arab jihad, the voice of Arabism and Islam, the voice of Palestine, the voice of Jerusalem, the voice of Arab unity, the voice of emancipation and progress, the voice of faith, the most sublime and creative cultural expression which imparts a new life into the nation's existence, renewing the humanitarian nature of the Arab

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

individual and deepening the nation's awareness of the substance of its immortal mission.

O children of the Arab nation: This radio, the Mother of Battles Radio, is your radio. It is a voice that will express your feelings, daily suffering, and struggle everywhere and anytime in the vast Arab homeland. It will address the Arab nation's major questions and its continued human, civilized contributions. It is the voice of Arab youth, who are worried about their future and the future of their homeland and nation. It is the voice of the Arab nation, which is filled with fears about the future of its children as a result of the criminal policies tampering with the thoughts of Arab generations, whether such policies are foreign or covered by names that have nothing to do with the nation's legitimate [word indistinct]. It is the voice of the Arab individuals exhausted by injustice and denied any chance to express their heroism, freedom, and latent energies. It is the voice of heroism, which has characterized the Arab character throughout history. It is the voice of the great echo, the voice of the severest suffering. It is the voice of jihad associating the spirit of the nation and the spirit of the age.

Sons of the Arab nation: First of all, one must understand what the Mother of Battles stood for to justify the reason for the existence of a radio speaking on its behalf and which is guided by its message. The Mother of Battles is a crowning of the heroic stands in the period extending from the beginning of the contemporary Arab renaissance until today. It is a principled stand of jihad, derived from the history of the Arab message; a cultural stand that reveals the latent resources and abilities that transcend the abilities and resources of the forces that are hostile to the nation's awakening. It is the battle of the nation's cultural survival which reveals all the existing contradictions that are planted in the Arab existence—whether these contradictions are the result of centuries of backwardness, colonialism, and fragmentation, or the fruit of the plots of the Zionists and colonialists who placed all their resources in the service of a conspiracy aimed at preserving the conditions that have been inherited from dark ages and further partitioning the Arab existence and destroying its nascent forces that promises a new future.

The Mother of Battles, then, is the symbol of a new faith, ideology, and course which sums up the great meanings of the profound and comprehensive resurgence the nation has launched in the last century. From the premise of these meanings, the Mother of Battles proceeds to tackle the current state of Arab affairs, and to outline what the future should be and work accordingly with the awareness of the Mother of Battles and with its spirit of jihad, epical determination, and ethical values. The Mother of Battles has transformed the present Arab state of affairs from a toy in the hands of the big powers which conspire against the Arabs fate into a major and positive watershed that enhances the nation's existence. Under the canopy of the present Arab state of affairs which calls for the need to rebuild everything on the level of countries, institutions, plans, and regimes comes the Mother of Battles radio in response to a fateful need to determine the distance between the actual Arab state of affairs and what it should be, between the peoples and the regimes, and between the declared objectives and those practiced every day.

Through the Mother of Battles, the voice of the good people in the nation, one of the important means of spreading the rays of light for confronting the darkness and blindness shrouding many parts of the Arab state of affairs will be made available. The Mother of Battles radio will be loud, warm, penetrating through which the nation will foil the schemes to sow discord among its sons, sever bonds among them, and obliterate their identity as the sons of a respectable and resurgent nation.

The bases of the historical steadfastness throughout the Arab homeland will foil the losing wagers on subduing the nation, squandering its fateful causes, and having it accept capitulation.

O Arabs everywhere, the Mother of Battles was an arduous spiritual uprising, a cry in the face of the heedless, the lost, and the perverse, and a call for the living forces of the nation — the youthful and mature forces that are filled with activity and have wide knowledge to check deterioration in the Arab situation and put an end to (mitigation?), falsification, deception, and prevarication and to rise up to the level of the logic and spirit of the Mother of Battles. It is also a call to formulate new rules for pan-Arab action exceeding all past experiments. Thus, these rules will embody the message of the Mother of Battles — a message that is foremost a jihad one comprising all the integrated and spiritual meanings of the concept of jihad. It is also an intellectual message addressing the Arab consciousness to meet its needs, develop it, and upgrade it to the level of the cultural confrontation which [words indistinct].

It is a political and principled message that puts politics in the service of the great goals of the Arab system — goals of unity, liberation, freedom, democracy, progress, socialism, and cultural resurrection. It addresses the masses of the nation and the peoples of the world through a comprehensive analytical and critical view of the policies employed in the Arab homeland with the aim of highlighting the nature of the cultural battle fought by the nation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Therefore, the Mother of Battles Radio calls on all Arab citizens, Islamic peoples, non-aligned countries, and the free in the world to distinguish our free and pure voice from other devious and deceptive voices. It is the voice of national, pan-Arab, religious, and cultural values in confrontation with the international, Middle East, and Mediterranean calls. It is the voice that represents the triumph of spiritual values on material values. It is the voice of rational and human revolutionariness in confrontation with all the irrational manifestations in the Arab world. It is the voice of man, human rights, and the rights of peoples struggling for human, cultural advancement starting with liberating themselves and realizing independence within the framework of openness to the contemporary world and adoption of the principle of capable dialogue in confrontation with the logic of [word indistinct] conflict. Therefore, all the honesty in the world will see that the Mother of Battles is a new cultural voice aiming to liberate the peoples.

O Arabs, the Mother of Battles has not been restricted to one country or one party although great Iraq was the country that launched it and although its attainment of maturity is linked to the historical role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. It is for the Arab people in all the parts of their great homeland. Its leader, Saddam Husayn, is the leading struggler in this great homeland. He is the hero of the nation. His revolutionary experience is the springboard for the nation. Therefore, the Mother of Battles Radio is the voice of the creative strugglers in all struggling yards where the nation's spirit is embodied. The Mother of Battles Radio is for all countries, parties, and leaders who work and struggle for raising the banner of Arabism and Islam and activating the role of Arab heritage in the contemporary life. It is the voice of Arab history, culture, and struggle. The voice that is open to all, the voice of dialogue with everyone. (1 minute break in transmission] It is a station for dialogue and daily interaction on the level of the Mother of Battles. It is geared toward the sons of the nation who feel the responsibility toward the future pan-Arab action insomuch as they extend support and participate to develop this initiative so that it can fully meet the call of the Mother of Battles. God is great. Peace be upon you.

German Firms 'Ready' for Projects After Embargo

JN0308095995 Baghdad INA in English
0820 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 3, INA—Head of a German delegation of businessmen has said German firms are ready to build projects in Iraq once the embargo was lifted.

Peter Bonkin [name as received], a former head of the Middle East Department of the German Foreign Ministry, expressed admiration of the reconstruction drive launched by Iraq to rebuild what had been destroyed during the war of 1991.

The German businessman told AL-QADISIYAH daily his team's visit has been approved by the German Government.

Ministry Reports on Child Fatalities Since 1990

JN0308105095 Baghdad INA in English
1020 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 3, INA—More than 548,000 children have died since 1990, a Health Ministry report said.

A ministry source told INA that out of the 548,333 deaths recorded over the period between 1990 and the first half of this year, 186,978 children were under five years of age while those over five totalled 361,365 children [numbers as received].

The report said that the main reason of the mortality increase is the acute shortages of food and medicine.

It recorded a serious increase in mortality rate among children less than five years of age. In 1990, the number was 8,903 which went up to 27,473 in 1991, to 46,933 in 1992, 49,764 in 1993, and 52,905 in 1994. In the first half of this year, said the report, 25,892 deaths were recorded.

The report attributed the increase in deaths among children under five to acute respiratory tract diseases, diarrhea, intestinal infections, severe malnutrition and lack of medicine.

Those over five years of age, meanwhile, died of heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes, liver diseases, tumors and shortage of medicine, said the Ministry of Health report.

Papers Report on Grain Harvest, Marketing

JN3107174495

[Editorial Report] Iraqi papers published on 12-20 July 1995 continue to report on the progress of the grain harvest under the supervision of senior Ba'th Party officials.

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 12 July publishes on page four a 300-word report on a meeting which Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim had with members of local party leaderships and agricultural subcommittees in Ninawa Governorate. Addressing the members, Ibrahim expressed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

his satisfaction with the marketing of wheat and barley by "conscientious officials" who, he said, have "placed the national interest above all other interests." He said: "The fertile land of the two rivers which is suitable for different crops, should not only feed its people, but also achieve a surplus to ensure food security for all our Arab people."

The paper publishes on the same page a 300-word report on the grain harvest in different governorates. The paper says that Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of party organizations in Salah al-Din and al-Anbar Governorates has met with members of the Higher Committee in charge of the harvest and marketing campaign in al-Anbar Governorate. The paper adds that al-Ahmad urged local party leaders and harvest and marketing committees in various districts to follow up marketing operations on a daily basis and called on peasants and farmers to fulfill their obligations by selling their entire crops at state receiving centers. The paper also says that Agriculture Minister Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid and Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih have discussed with the heads of administrative units in the various districts and subdistricts of Ninawa Governorate the stage which has been reached by the current grain harvest and marketing campaign and decided that each peasant and farmer will sign a document stating the exact amount of wheat and barley he has marketed. The same document will point out those peasants and farmers who have excelled in the marketing operations and those who have defaulted, the paper concludes.

Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic on 20 July publishes on page four a 300-word report that RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim attended a seminar on grain productivity per area unit which was organized jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Iba' Agricultural Research Center. Addressing the seminar, Ibrahim hailed the great material and spiritual achievements of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution under Saddam Husayn, saying "it is our right to be proud of the achievements and victories of the great July Revolution, whose entire course is marked by sacrifices and creativeness and whose days are time of struggle and jihad for the sake of elevating the edifice of faith and the word of justice on this blessed land; the land of immortal civilizations and history." Ibrahim affirmed that the agricultural sector is strongly backed by the leadership of the party and the revolution to help it assume its appropriate place in the process of national awakening, adding "increasing production and productivity in quantity and quality has been and will continue to be the aim of the great July Revolution."

The paper says that Ibrahim concluded by saying that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party differs in its principles and program from other movements and parties inside and outside the Arab World in the sense that it carries the Arab nation's immortal message and sublime values, principles, and morals.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin Meets With Settlers, To Meet Again 8 Aug

TA0408100495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza once again on 8 August. Following a two-hour meeting this morning, the four council members said they had not received answers to most of the questions they posed in the meeting.

Council Secretary Uri Ari'el told our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar that if they do not receive clear answers in the next meeting the situation in the field will worsen. One of the demands posed by the settlers was not to arm the Palestinian police in Judaea and Samaria with rifles, but rather with clubs and pistols, so as to lower the level of the jeopardy posed to the settlers.

The early part of the meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will convene in the afternoon of 7 August to hear a briefing from the participants in this morning's meeting and to decide whether to resume or continue halting their protest actions.

The Religious Kibbutz Movement welcomed President 'Ezer Weizman's initiative and his important contribution to the meeting held this morning between the prime minister and settlement leaders. Avraham Stern, the movement's political secretary, told our correspondent Shula Schmerling that his movement hopes a regular communication channel has been opened which that ease the tension between the government and the settlers in the territories and heal the rift in the nation.

Settlers End Protests After President's Appeal

TA0308152895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has decided to temporarily suspend protest activities in the field following a request to this effect from President 'Ezer Weizman.

The president appealed to the settlers to temporarily suspend their activities and called on the government to use this hiatus to establish a dialogue. Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports from the hill near Qedumim that in the wake of this decision, the settlers have voluntarily left the site.

Settlers Pray at Jericho Synagogue Despite Ban

TA0308181695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of settlers and Kakh supporters have arrived at the ancient synagogue north of Jericho and are now praying at the site. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had originally approved the settlers' plan to pray and study at the ancient synagogue but, according to the settlers, at the very last moment the army announced that the area had been declared a closed military zone. In reaction, the settlers began to proceed on foot to the synagogue. Our correspondent reports that one of the marchers, Kakh activist No'am Federman, has been detained for questioning.

This evening, the IDF closed a part of the No. 90 road, which passes through Jericho, to Israeli vehicles. The official explanation is that the road was closed in the interests of public order. The IDF is diverting Israeli cars to the Jericho bypass road.

Commander on Dealing With Settler Demonstrations

TA0308134095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Aug 95 pp 1, 19

[Report on interview with Elik Ron, commander of the Israel Police Samaria and Judaea District, by Tzvi Zinger; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I would like to believe that the possibility of Jews raising arms against other Jews does not exist, but if a demented killer takes a weapon and starts shooting and the only way to stop him is to shoot at him, that is what will happen," Elik Ron stated in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

He stressed that "based on talks we have had with settlers and on the information material they publish, they also consider this an impossibility. Having said that, the investigation of the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs revealed that there were army orders not to shoot at Jews. Such a situation would be untenable under my command. It goes without saying that if a demented killer raises a weapon and the only way to stop him is to shoot at him, he will be fired upon. All the policemen in this district know that."

Commander Ron disclosed that he gave orders to check whether Yosi Kappah, head of the Qedumim local council, had said in a newspaper interview that the settlers might respond with fire to "police provocations."

"In my opinion, such words, if they were uttered, are very dangerous. I instructed the regional commander to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

talk to Kappah, find out exactly what he said, and if necessary warn him."

As for the children of settlers participating in demonstrations, Ron said: "The settlers are making cynical and foolish use of the children, which is an indication of obtuseness. They talk about self-sacrifice, and I see it as self-delusion. What happens to those children? What traumas do they experience? Pity the mother who is willing to do this to her children."

According to him, the presence of children and babies at the demonstrations is the main reason that the police, at this stage, are not contemplating the use of tear gas or water hoses to disperse the riots. "We are making efforts — although this makes it very hard for us to fulfill our mission and requires large number of troops — not to use those measures and to resort only to physical force to drag the demonstrators and get them to their feet. This, however, does not mean that in the event of a violent clash or intolerable blocking of roads, we will not use such measures as water hoses."

As for how the police will deal in the future with the settlers' rioting, Ron said: "We will do whatever is necessary. After all, if we fail to fulfill these missions — even as we grit our teeth and with pain in our heart — an intolerable situation could easily evolve that would end in chaos. I do not see the police or the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] breaking down or getting tired. To the best of my knowledge, nobody promised the settlers that they will be allowed to set the rules of the game, nor did anybody promise them that more drastic measures might not be taken against them, mainly against the organizers, in the future. In fact, we have not fully exercised the law against them yet. We forcefully removed hundreds of people from the scene of the event, detained them, and interrogated some of them, but all of them were released. We have not signed a contract with them that this will continue to be the case."

As for using the army to disperse settlers riots, Ron said: "People who were on Hadagan Hill two days ago could see that the paratroopers were ineffective when it came to dispersing the mob. They are kids who have not been trained for this job, and they did not know what to do. I believe we should refrain from using soldiers to disperse such demonstrations to the extent possible. Furthermore, the police are quicker than the IDF when it comes to mobilizing and activating troops. On this issue, I agree with settlement leaders who called against using the army to deal with the settlers. This, however, does not mean that we will be able to cope with this job as events unfold.

"The possibility of using the army exists. The IDF is a legitimate tool when what needs to be upheld is not just the law but also democracy; however, this is a tool that should be saved for situations in which there is no alternative. Policemen are both better trained for the job and older. They willingly chose such a way of life, and they are aware of the fact that they may be called upon to handle such difficult situations."

As for his attitude toward the settlers, Ron said: "I found people here whom I would be proud to serve. They are quality people. The level of crime among them is negligible, the lowest in the country. I see them as pioneers, and I say this without any political intentions; I am referring only to the willingness of many of them to give up a life of comfort and affluence to live according to their beliefs. Their devotion to this land, however, is no less than my devotion as a citizen to democracy and to the need to uphold it. The main difference between prestate days and today is that we are not fighting the British or the Turks. Today we are fighting and destroying ourselves, and this must stop!"

Six Arrested in Incident Near al-Husayni Home

TA0308175195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Police detectives from the Jerusalem District have arrested six Jews, including two women, suspected of firing shots in the air near Faysal al-Husayni's [Palestinian Authority official responsible for the Jerusalem file] home this evening. No one was hurt. The six are now being brought in for interrogation by the police. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that their claim that stones were hurled at them before they fired the shots will be investigated.

Military Court Sentences 2 Hamas Members

TA0308131195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A military court has sentenced Husayn Husayn and Tahrir Shibli from Gaza to 10 years imprisonment after convicting them of membership in the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and of arms possession. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Official on Meeting of Committee on Israeli Arabs

TA0308165295 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 3 Aug 95

[Communication issued by 'Aliza Goren, Prime Minister Rabin's media adviser]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "The intention is to accelerate the processes concerning minorities in Israel, especially

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Arab minority." This is how Prime Minister's Office Director-General Tzvi Alderoti defined the meeting of the Directors-General Committee on Israeli Arabs, which took place yesterday (Wednesday), 02.08.95, under his chairmanship.

The committee discussed finding solutions for the unauthorized Bedouin settlements in the Northern and Haifa Districts. Nine settlement centers will be found, and three possible solutions will be recommended: agreed-upon evacuation with compensation, recognition of the settlements as communities, and annexation of the settlements by existing communities.

At the beginning of the year, the Government recognized four settlements as communities: al-Ariyan, Khwalid, Damiya, and 'En Hod.

The committee heard the recommendations of the interministerial committee — headed by Beni Shilo, Director of the Minorities Branch at the Prime Minister's Office — on the 'Arav Na'im, Humayrah, Acsania [place-name as received], and Ra's al-'Ayn settlements.

Mr. Alderoti decided to establish an additional committee to examine the interministerial committee's recommendations, in light of the reservations that were heard yesterday, and to establish a small team to assess the cost of accepting the recommendations. The teams will present their conclusions as early as possible, before the end of the month. Establishing the teams will not postpone activities that are currently being carried out.

Immigration in First Half of 1995 Up 2%

TA0308084195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 95 p 3

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Immigration during the first six months of this year was up 2 percent compared to the same period last year, with some 34,500 immigrants arriving, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

At a special discussion held by the cabinet yesterday on immigration issues, Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban gave an overview on the improving situation of immigrants in recent years.

According to Tzaban, only 9.6 percent of immigrants were unemployed during the first three months of this year, compared to some 33% during the first three months of 1992. Among immigrants who arrived in 1990, only 6.5% are unemployed, a rate lower than that of veteran Israelis (6.9%). [passage omitted]

Trade With Egypt Up 162%

TA0308085895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trade between Israel and Egypt has increased 162 percent over the past six months, compared with the same period last year, the Industry and Trade Ministry announces. In that period, Israel exported $14.4 million in goods to Egypt and imported $21m. from that country.

Canada Announces End to Arms Embargo

TA0308161395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canada has lifted its arms embargo on Israel, opening the way for military deals between the two countries. Our political affairs reporter says although the Canadians pledged to end the embargo a year ago, an official announcement has been made now to Israel's ambassador in Ottawa.

NEQUDA Press Review for Jul

TA3107154695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a review of the July issue of NEQUDA, the monthly Hebrew-language magazine published by the Society for the Advancement of Settlement and Absorption in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jordan Valley, which serves as the political organ of the Jewish settlers in the territories. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items with a bearing on political affairs published in NEQUDA.

CONTENTS:

1. In Lieu of an Editorial
2. The Temple Mount Synagogue Will Reflect the Historic Reconciliation Between Islam and Judaism
3. By signing the Oslo Agreement, the PLO Actually Recognized the Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza
4. Begin, Shamir, Sharon, and Refa'el Eytan Help Perpetuate the Biggest Scam (Named Rabin)
5. Unity as Substance

IN LIEU OF AN EDITORIAL

This column, published on pages 12 and 13, consists of four essays. A 400-word essay, entitled: "The Ma'ale Yisra'el Flag," urges the national camp to join the struggle against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria city centers. It asserts that "the masses of settlers should realize they must not be lulled

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

into inaction by the illusory relative calm on all fronts in recent months." The author adds: "If enough people join in when the order is given at Ma'ale Yisra'el, and if they act with the same dedication we witnessed in Sebastya 20 years ago, we will be able to avert the evacuation of the site and to block future negative processes in that location and elsewhere.

"And if the Judaea and Samaria inhabitants embarking on the struggle are joined by a few percent of the (almost) 1.25 million Israelis who voted for national camp parties, we will undoubtedly be able to avert the IDF withdrawal from the cities, and even more: to topple the government, thereby changing the political situation altogether."

Another 400-word essay, entitled: "Shahal's Anxieties," addresses the police minister's warning that without a full-fledged separation plan, he cannot guarantee the dividing line townships' security. The author is certain that the Palestinians will resort to any means at their disposal, including terror, after the IDF withdraws from Judaea and Samaria city centers, and that Israelis living close to the dividing line will suffer the consequences of that. The author urges the national camp political parties — most notably the Likud — to make a direct appeal to those Israelis and calls on the national camp to make contingency preparations that "will force the government — through public opinion — to halt the withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria at the present stage."

A 400-word essay, entitled "The Rift Curse," deplores the division caused by David Levi's secession and fears that other individuals will follow suit. It urges, therefore, to pursue the efforts to unite the warring national camp parties in a bid to avert "the loss of another part of Eretz Yisra'el."

The 300-word last editorial, entitled "Rabin's Complaint," maintains that the Hizballah activities in south Lebanon are a Syrian way to obtain better terms. Israel's willingness to continue the Washington negotiations with Syria reflects the Israeli acknowledgement of "the Syrians' 'right' to resort to lethal military violence against Israel in a bid to gain an edge at the negotiating table." The essay asserts that the "insecure government, devoid of any judgment, is liable to put us in mortal danger both in the Golan and on the Lebanese border."

THE TEMPLE MOUNT SYNAGOGUE WILL REFLECT THE HISTORIC RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ISLAM AND JUDAISM

This 2,500-word article by Shalom Rosenberg on pages 28, 29, and 41 expounds on the theory that Jewish history is based on the link between the people and the land. The three dimensions of the contemporary Jewish life are the State of Israel, the Jewish people, and the Jewish religion. The author maintains: "The Government of Israel may have the right to make political decisions on territorial concessions, but it has no right to waive the rights of the Jewish religion." He adds that the political decisionmaking made on behalf of the Jewish religion is daily becoming more problematic. To illustrate the point, he says: "Paradoxically, ceding Hebron is worse than giving up Qiryat Arba'. While Qiryat Arba' is a political issue, the right of return to Hebron is a religious right, first and foremost." This leads him to "the sad conclusion that the interests of Israel are in conflict with the rights of the Jewish religion. That is not to say that compromise is impossible, but religious considerations should also guide our political decisions, or else we will cease being a Jewish state."

Rosenberg applies this theory to Jerusalem: "Even if we endorse the conciliatory stance, even if we decide to compromise on Jerusalem too, such a compromise must be made with Islam and Christianity, and not with the Palestinians." The compromise would be mutual, and "if Jerusalem is redivided, God forbid, we may and we should demand that Temple Mount be divided." Such a solution would be "a unique international piece of evidence of the solution of political and religious conflicts between Jews and Arabs (and Christians too, to a certain extent)".

BY SIGNING THE OSLO AGREEMENT, THE PLO ACTUALLY RECOGNIZED THE JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA, AND GAZA

This 2,700-word article by Asher Yuval on pages 34, 35, 36, and 37 aims "to make a practical, sober analysis" of the political developments since the Oslo accords. Yuval asserts that the government failed to make great progress in the two years since Oslo, because it had not accounted for two factors: "the adamant stance of the Judaea and Samaria settlements" and the conduct of the Arabs, who pursued their terrorist activities. "The government's biggest disappointment, however, was the economic aspect." Donations did not arrive, and furthermore, "the unwillingness of the Palestinians and the Arabs to tend to the economic issues, rebuild the Gaza refugee camps, build local infrastructure, and create employment has a crucial political significance, because it reflects a policy and an obvious message to their public: Jabalyah and al- Shati' must not be rebuilt even after the 'peace' agreements, because we are on our way to Ramla and Yafo."

The author accedes that "the process itself can not be reversed," but he believes that "it will continue at a pace

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that will allow us to think and reorganize." He suggests launching a campaign to explain to the public the fallacy of the left wing's radical peace concept and the need to conduct peace negotiations without any sense of guilt toward the Arabs. He says: "I suggest we do not rely on the Likud too heavily." Because of the "internal war in the Likud," ideology takes a third place, after personal prestige and party survival. He further counsels against "splitting or going to extremes," as these "will not improve the position of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements." He urges his readers to show perseverance, "to make practical preparations," to learn the lessons of the Gaza settlements. He believes that "the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements' forbearance will be the factor that will eventually determine the State of Israel's frontiers and sovereignty outlines." The preparations should include a pragmatic approach to allies, both inside and outside. In addition, he implies that the "appropriate persons" should be advised of what is and what is not acceptable, what the settlers' breaking point is.

BEGIN, SHAMIR, SHARON, AND REFA'EL EYTAN HELP PERPETUATE THE BIGGEST SCAM (NAMED RABIN)

This 2,500-word article by Uri Milstein (who a footnote identifies as "a military historian" and the author of a recent book entitled: "The Rabin File — How the Myth Grew") on pages 42, 43, and 43, asserts that while the "huge marketing campaign in Israeli media, bordering on national brainwashing" that accompanied the peace process was based on the premise that the public sees Rabin as "Mr. Defense," a brilliant military strategist, and will therefore subscribe to his promise that if the peace process sours after territories are ceded, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will reconquer them, and more. Milstein argues that this "marketing campaign is one of the biggest scams in history, because Rabin has failed every military test since his days as a private." He believes that in 1993, "Rabin realized that Israel does not have an army capable of attaining national-territorial objectives at a reasonable human cost. Being unable — mainly unwilling — to carry out a thorough reform in the IDF, he adopted a policy of a cease-fire with the Palestinians and the Arab countries at the price of ceding all the territories the IDF had taken in June 1967."

Milstein concludes: "Rabin's image characterizes the overall practice of the Zionist left wing, which established its hegemony in the Zionist movement, the Jewish community, and the State of Israel through deceit and brainwashing. This practice damaged the whole Israeli society and brought about the decline of the Israeli spirit." "To ensure Israel's future existence and healthy development, the truth must be exposed, and the man, who is seen as Israel's 'Mr. Defense' and one of the greatest generals in the entire world, should be shown to be one who has not scored a single genuine achievement in his 54 years in the defense establishment."

UNITY AS SUBSTANCE

This 900-word article by Uri Heitner, "the Golan Settlements Committee spokesman," on page 45, speaks of the unique unity of Golan settlers and announces: "I believe the chief struggle is not waged over security or the retention of water sources, nor is it over state sovereignty or our historic right. All these are extremely important and deserve utmost consideration, but as far as I am concerned, the struggle is first and foremost for the settlement. I view the settlement of Jews in the country as the supreme Zionist value. Security and sovereignty are the means that ensure its existence.

"For that reason, I see no point in waging a struggle if it harms the Golan settlement drive. Society is liable to crash and disintegrate in a situation of uncertainty and anxiety about the future, unless it invests great energies in ensuring its existence. Unity is the glue that ensures the existence of Golan settlement. I am prepared to make major sacrifice for the struggle for the Golan, save the true objective of the struggle. If the struggle succeeds and Israel retains the Golan, yet the Golan settlement drive crumbles, it will be a classic case of 'a successful operation in which the patient died.' I opt for life."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mother of New York Bombing Suspect Interviewed

JN0308183595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Najla' Najm, mother of Iyad Mahmud Isma'il Najm, New York World Trade Center explosion suspect, by unidentified correspondent in Jarash on 3 August—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mrs. Najla', I know you have certain feelings toward your son, Iyad, who arrived in New York this afternoon aboard a special U.S. plane after he was arrested. He faces a serious charge that he was suspected of taking part in blowing up the New York World Trade Center in 1993 in which six people were killed and more than 1,000 were wounded. Will you please tell us something about Iyad?

[Najla'] You first said that he was charged. I believe that he should not have been charged because he has nothing to do with the issue. Iyad does not do such things. If you see him, you will not believe what is being said about him. Iyad is a human being and loves people and life. He does not like such issues and he does not like terrorism.

[Correspondent] Mrs. Najla', your son has been arrested. How did he get involved?

[Najla'] I do not know. He might have been accused by enemies.

[Correspondent] You know your son well, and we know that you visited him in the United States. Why did you describe him as a peaceful man? He might have accompanied certain people who you did not like.

[Najla'] No, all of his friends were good people. All people are good. Journalists might have come and asked the neighbors and even his friends. All of his friends are good people, and everybody likes him.

[Correspondent] Was he exposed to problems in his life?

[Najla'] He has never been exposed to any problem. He loves the United States, and he intended to return to the United States. He bought a ticket from an Amman office but I brought him from the United States against his wishes.

[Correspondent] But he left New York and returned to Jordan on the same day. Was that by accident?

[Najla'] He was in Dallas. Those in Dallas and those who he worked for knew him. His friends in Dallas also knew him. He spent much time in Dallas. He first studied at Kansas University and then he moved to Dallas.

[Correspondent] But why did he wait for the Jordanian police to arrest him and hand him over to the United States, if he wanted to go to the United States voluntarily to prove his innocence? Why did he not surrender before that?

[Najla'] I do not know. The man believes himself to be innocent and he had no fears. He loves the United States, he wanted to go back there, and he has returned. Because he loves the United States, he wanted to go there.

[Correspondent] When did you last talk to him, and what did he say?

[Najla'] I saw him one day before he left. He said to me: I know that I am innocent, God willing. I am certain of that and I will come back to my university. He is a university student.

[Correspondent] What does he study at the university?

[Najla'] He studies computers.

[Correspondent] This is after he came back here. But what was he doing in the United States?

[Najla'] We sent him to study at Kansas University. We were living in Kuwait before the Gulf incident. He studied languages for one year until the Gulf incident took place. His father used to send him money. So we told him that we would no longer be able to send him money. We told him that he should work there and study or return to his country. He sought help from the university concerning his problem. I think he did not get that help.

[Correspondent] Mrs. Najla', did you believe everything he told you?

[Najla'] I am optimistic, and I believe 100 percent that my son in innocent. This is clear in the way he deals with us and with other people. Iyad would not do such things. Maybe some people accused him or fooled him. I cannot judge. God knows.

[Correspondent] Thank you for speaking to us during difficult circumstances for your son.

[Najla'] I believe that the U.S. Government and its judiciary are fair and that they will make sure that Iyad is innocent and has nothing to do with this incident.

Prime Minister: King's Qatar Trip 'Successful'

JN0308163595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir described His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Qatar and his talks with His Highness

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, as successful. He added that the purpose of His Majesty King Husayn's visit was to congratulate his highness the shaykh on the occasion of assuming power in sisterly Qatar.

Upon his return to Amman this afternoon, after taking part in the talks His Majesty King Husayn held during his visit to Qatar, his excellency the prime minister said: In Qatar, we found an enthusiasm for joint action and a warmth toward Jordan. His highness the amir of Qatar thanked his majesty the king for this visit.

His excellency the prime minister noted that on the bilateral level, it was agreed to form a joint committee headed by the foreign ministers of Jordan and Qatar to strengthen relations, work together, and coordinate bilateral, Arab, and international issues. In this regard, his excellency said that His Majesty King Husayn and His highness the amir of Qatar discussed these issues and the need to move from slogans toward achieving joint objectives in inter-Arab relations.

On the existence of a Jordanian-Qatari joint action formula for restoring Arab solidarity, his majesty said that the issue of a joint Arab action was not discussed and that nothing was mentioned about mediation or any similar issue. However, he added, we will work together to achieve our objectives in terms of bilateral and inter-Arab relations to strengthen and achieve Arab solidarity.

Paper Comments on King's Visit

JN0308162195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to sisterly Qatar is a landmark along the road to promoting bilateral relations to the highest level of coordination and cooperation on all levels for the welfare of the two brotherly peoples.

The king's visit, which is the second in almost a year, comes in the wake of the recent changes for the better in sisterly Qatar. The new young leadership embraces international changes and is capable of dealing with them in a manner that serves the Qatari society by developing the mechanisms of its progress and integration into the new world being formed around us, and by renewing its adherence to true inter-Arab relations. This will also serve the sublime goal of achieving Arab solidarity.

Since their inception, Jordanian-Qatari relations have gone beyond formalities to the essence of bilateral cooperation that was also manifested on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah represents a young leadership that heralds a promising future and better relations based on greater coordination, cohesion, and understanding for the sake of a brighter future that is aspired by all.

Jordanian-Qatari relations have been, and will always be, God willing, based on solid foundations of constructive and fruitful cooperation in the interest of both countries. These relations are by all criteria a good example to be emulated by other states because they are balanced and realistic, thanks to the two leaderships. They are characterized by full coordination that seeks to serve the mutual interests of both peoples.

On the occasion of King Husayn's trip to Qatar, we greatly hope that his visit will be a good beginning for better inter-Arab relations in the interest of the nation's generations and Arab aspirations.

Parties Merge 'in View of Political Situation'

JN0308204795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Three Jordanian political parties have decided to merge to form the Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party, according the secretaries general of merging parties. At a press conference Wednesday [2 August] the heads of the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party and the Jordan Arab Democratic Party announced the formation of the new political group.

Two Lower House of Parliament members, Bassam Haddadin and Mustafa Shneikat have become members of the new party which comprises prominent political figures, according to the new party spokesman, Issa Mdanat.

Mr. Mdanat told the press that there will be no need for the new party to request an official licence from the Ministry of Interior because each one of the three parties was already legally registered.

In explaining the reason for the merger, Mr. Mdanat said that each of the three parties had similar views in terms of political issues, adding that the merger was deemed essential in view of the political situation and the requirements for joint efforts to deal with the coming stage.

Members of the three parties have been enthusiastic about the merger and pledged to work together for common causes, Mr. Mdanat said. He said he expected the constituent assembly, which will be convened on Sept. 17, will endorse the new party's political programmes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mr. Mdanat said the party welcomes new members, and the political manifesto which is expected to emerge from the September meeting will outline the new political ideology of the new party.

Jordanian-Bosnian Friendship Society Announced

JN0308202395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—A group of 60 prominent Jordanian personalities have announced the creation of the Jordanian-Bosnian Friendship Society, which elected former prime minister Ahmad Obeidat as president.

The society, which groups Abd al-Razzak Tubeishat, and Ra'ef Nijem, both former ministers, among others, as members, is still to be formally registered with the concerned departments, according to a statement following the announcement at the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Addressing the meeting Mr. Obeidat noted that the society aims at bolstering ties of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Jordan and Bosnia in various social, cultural, humanitarian, economic, financial, legal and scientific fields.

He said that the society members will undertake activities necessary to help acheive these objectives.

The society was motivated by humanitarian feelings on the part of the Jordanian-Christian as well as Mulsim people and their soldiarity with the Bosnian nation, said Mr. Obeidat, adding that the Jordanian people have always displayed soldiarity with the Arab and Muslim nations.

Jordanians have been deeply pained at the sufferings of the Bosnian people over the past three years because they were struggling for freedom and for defending their rights and their lands and their dignity, said Mr. Obeidat.

The formation of this society serves as a reminder to the Arab countries that failure to support the Bosnians could ential grave danger to the Arab and Muslim nations, added Mr. Obeidat.

He said that the society has a message to the world nations in general and the European countries in particular. It is that human rights are the same everywhere and there should be no discrimination among people on the basis of religion or ethnic origin.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ba'th Official Underlines Position on Peace

JN0308135895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Sa'id Hammadi, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and president of the Revolution Youth Union, met with participants in the sixth pan-Arab camp — Basil Session. Comrade Ibrahim Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Youth Union command; the president and members of the board of directors of the pan-Arab youth camps; and the dean of the Political Sciences Higher Institute attended.

Comrade Hammadi conveyed to the participants in the camp love, greetings, and appreciation from militant leader Hafiz al-Asad. He welcomed them on behalf of the Revolution Youth Union as brothers and comrades and as a pioneering group of the Arab nation's youth. He wished them a good stay and a successful camp.

Hammadi said: The Revolution Youth Union hosts this camp out of our view of the Arab youth, who are the vanguards and the educated driving force in the nation, and who will achieve the glory and pride of the Arab nation and its pioneering role, defend its existence, and face all challenges.

He stressed the significance of the presence of the Arab nation's youth on the land of Arab Syria, noting that this will strengthen the ties of brotherhood and pan-Arab relations; develop awareness, knowledge, and experiences; and achieve the supreme noble goals.

He expressed his pride in, and appreciation for all Arab youth participants, who represent hope and shining promise.

Comrade Hammadi also gave a political briefing. He underlined Syria's firm principled position on all the current issues and its eagerness to achieve just and comprehensive peace that would return all the occupied Arab territories and preserve legitimate rights. He noted President Hafiz al-Asad's statement in his Army Day message that Syria has the power to defend the Arab nation and its legitimate rights.

Other speeches were delivered by several participants in the camp. They voiced their great appreciation for Syria's pioneering pan-Arab policy under the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad. They also said they were proud to be in Syria, the land of steadfastness and Arabism, which is defending Arab rights and pan-Arab existence. They praised the great efforts and resources given by the Revolution Youth Union to ensure the success of the Basil Session of the pan-Arab youth camp and help it achieve its desired pan-Arab objectives.

Al-Shihabi Views Armed Forces, Peace Process

JN0308171295 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 31 Jul 95 p 3

["Text" of interview with Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chairman of the General Staff of the Syrian Arab Army and Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent, on the 50th anniversary of the Army; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-BA'TH] The 1 August [Syrian Army Day] anniversary is not an ordinary occasion in Syria's modern history. This anniversary creates within the homeland's sons many meanings of dignity, pride, clinging to the national soil, dedication for this soil, and martyrdom for its sake.

We hope your excellency will kindly express this glorious occasion and view our Armed Forces' establishment from the very beginning, and how they made their difficult way until they reached this integration in the ideological and combat aspects as well as full preparedness to have the honor of defending the homeland and the causes of the people and the Arab nation.

[Al-Shihabi] What you said is true. This occasion is dear and cherished by all sons of our people. Moreover, the masses of our Arab nation take pride in this occasion. This is so because throughout its history which is replete with heroism and bravery in the Arab nation's battles, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, our Syrian Arab Army has embodied the Arabs' will for regaining their land and rights and preserving their dignity, independence, and sovereignty.

In this sense, the Syrian Army is the vanguard Arab fortress that defends the Arab nation's honor and dignity. It is also the Arab nation's impregnable bastion and the symbol of its loftiness and vigor. The Syrian Army also embodies the Arab nation's will for liberation and for building the aspired bright future for all Arabs.

I can say that it is not strange for the anniversary of the establishment of our Armed Forces to be so much on the minds of our people's sons and to create in them deep memories and special feelings about loving the national soil, clinging to it, struggling for it, and sacrificing every precious thing to keep the homeland proud and sovereign.

Since its establishment, the Syrian Arab Army has been a school that makes heroes, a factory that enhances the values of manliness, chivalry, and pride, and a field that mixes the homeland's sons in one pot in which national links are above any other links.

Moreover, pan-Arab aspiration has been, and continues to be, above any other aspiration. The national and pan-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Arab aspirations have been the sacred wishes for every individual in our Army since this valiant Army was born, upon the beginning of independence 49 years ago.

Half a century ago, our Army was established from the elite of our people's youths, who, at that time had modest weapons. However, this nucleus, from which our Armed Forces stemmed, represented a national and pan-Arab will for our people and for the Arab nation. This will did not know weakness or retreat. Hence, our Armed Forces' march proceeded with the passage of difficult days and phases, which Syria and our Arab Homeland experienced, in terms of blockade, colonialist alliances, pressures designed to discard our sovereignty and independence, and the establishment of groupings in this region to serve the colonialist interests and place our homeland and resources and our Arab nation's capabilities under hegemony and control.

We do not want to recall the already-known historical details. However, we can say that the pan-Arab contribution made by our people to confront these schemes and attempts played a principal and considerable role to defeat them and remove them from the Arab region. Our valiant Army, our people's advance force, came through these confrontations with flying colors. It played a significant role in confronting the colonialist schemes and honorably defended the independence of Syria and the other Arab states.

The best example of this can be seen in what our Armed Forces have done concerning the Palestine question. Soon after the establishment of our Armed Forces, they found themselves facing the conspiracy to usurp Palestine. It was our Army's fate to be in the front trench in a long bloody conflict between us and Israel. That army did not hesitate to shoulder its responsibility to protect the homeland and fight one battle after another to defend the nation's cause, the cause of Palestine. We take pride in the fact that almost every family in Syria has lost one martyr for the sake of this cause. Therefore, it is not strange to describe the Syrian Army as the army of the pan-Arab cause because it mobilized all its resources and energies for the sake of that cause. This Army continues to adhere to its pledge and oath.

If I want to sum up in not so many words the victorious march of our Army, I can say that this march has always included the cream of our people who were the backbone of our Armed Forces. The valiant men of this Army were a true reflection of the ability of our people and nation to defend the land and keep the banner of this homeland flying high all the time. This national momentum in our Army continued to be a factor of strength, sacrifice, giving, and martyrdom. The blessed Corrective Movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has embodied these values and meanings when President Hafiz al-Asad, the faithful son of the people and the prominent Armed Forces man, paid his greatest attention to this Army. Our Armed Forces thus became the true maker of our people's and nation's glories. This was proved in the October War and its fierce battles. Its outstanding achievements on the military level in the battles in Mount Hermon and the Golan Heights, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, constituted a great historic achievement for the Arab nation in the modern age when the legend of the invincible Israeli army was destroyed for the first time.

The political outcome of the war did not affect our Army. On the contrary, it increased its conviction of the need to develop its capabilities and continue to build itself and its cadres. Our Army continued to make heavy sacrifices. When the civil war erupted in Lebanon, it did not hesitate to extend a helping hand to the Lebanese brothers. Through sacrifice, courage, and devotion to duty, our Army was able to heal the rift in Lebanese life, which was about to be driven to an unknown future by the dark civil war there. Syria's efforts for Lebanon for about two decades and relations between the two countries have become a model for relations between brothers. Such relations are thus far unprecedented in the Arab world.

On this occasion, I would like to recall what President Hafiz al-Asad said at the beginning of his guiding speech to our Armed Forces two years ago when he addressed officers and soldiers, saying: "Every year this anniversary is celebrated we see and feel the fruits of our efforts throughout the past years in the form of progress and development in all fields of national work, including alertness and preparedness on the part of our Armed Forces. On every anniversary we find that we have made large strides in carrying out our sacred duty and strengthening the homeland."

[AL-BA'TH] Your previous answer sheds a historical light on the march of our courageous Army. Could you please shed light on ideological aspects and combat preparedness, efforts to improve our Armed Forces' equipment, and the stages covered in this regard?

[Al-Shihabi] First of all, it can be said that the Syrian Arab Army's march toward strength and impregnability and toward providing the proper conditions for defense and confrontation involves strenuous efforts and tough stages. There is no room here to explain these aspects in detail, but I can say that the leadership attaches special importance to the ideological and combat preparedness of our Armed Forces, proceeding from the fact that "the individual is the decisive element in the battle." No matter how technologically advanced the army equip-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ment may be, the human factor remains, in our opinion, most important. This is the most prominent aspect of the efforts being exerted to develop the Armed Forces. We, however, do not deny the role played by modern weapons and hardware. These, too, are an important part of this process, but the one who uses these weapons and endures tough conditions is the human being. Our Army developed under difficult conditions. Our Armed Forces emerged under extremely complicated Arab, regional, and international circumstances. Yet, ever since the beginning, the Armed Forces had a solid base of national and pan-Arab values. Our Armed Forces since the beginning have had a strong will of confrontation, persistence, and determination. Therefore, the Armed Forces personnel developed ambitions to fully comprehend the various weapons capabilities regardless of their sophistication. They began to handle modern weapons at every stage of their development with high competence and with superb technical skill. This prompted the Army command to continuously fulfill the needs of our Armed Forces without any delay. A basis for combat capability and development has thus been created to upgrade the performance of these forces to an ideal level to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

Since its emergence, the blessed Corrective Movement, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has been paying great attention to ideological orientation, combat training, and the reorganization of the Armed Forces. The movement provided the Army with necessary material resources. So, there was integration in all these fields. Perhaps, the ideological and educational aspects, which took its organizational shape after the establishment of the Political Department, represents a true development in the structure of our Armed Forces. This department's programs resulted in the educated ideology-driven soldier deeply aware of his tasks and duties and the extent of linkage among these tasks and duties and the march of the homeland and the party, the revolution's achievements, and the gains achieved for all the people's sectors by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under the leadership of its secretary general struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

The educational process in our Army is a continuous one and is in conjunction with combat training which has also taken advanced forms based on the basics of modern training and the use of all modern material means of training and preparation. Modern technology was also introduced to our Armed Forces. So, we can say that we have reached an advanced stage of training and preparation thanks to the many schools, colleges, and institutes which graduate new groups every year to support our Armed Forces. These groups are organized and disciplined, and one can be proud of them. For many years, we have relied on preparation of the technical and command cadres in various fields needed by our Armed Forces on land, in the air, and at sea.

On the 50th anniversary of our Army, we stress that we will continue to modernize our Armed Forces. There will always be qualitative additions to reinforce the competence of our Army, to strengthen it, and to versify its tools to continue to be on the highest level of preparedness and to have the best performance. As President Hafiz al-Asad said: "The stronger we are the freer we will be, and the freer we are the stronger we will be. He who does not have a strong army will not be able to guarantee the continuation of his independence, sovereignty, and the impregnability of his homeland. Our Army is the protector of our land and the fence of our homeland. The more prepared and ready it is the more tranquility, security, and stability we will have."

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed his appreciation for the level of training of the Syrian Arab Army. In his address to officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers on 1 August last year, he said: "I express my appreciation for what you achieved last year in terms of national and pan-Arab tasks, for what you have achieved in the field of training and preparedness, and for what you have gained in terms of new experience."

[AL-BA'TH] The peace process began four years ago. How do you view this process on the Syrian track, which is still facing difficulties, and how do you view the future of peace in the region in light of what has taken place so far?

[Al-Shihabi] Syria responded to the peace initiative the United States launched four years ago because it met Syrian demands for the retrieval of the territories occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967 and because it was aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace which would defuse aggression, close the chapter of wars, and achieve stability and security for all parties.

More clearly, the initiative was launched in light of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the exchange of land for peace, and just and comprehensive peace on all fronts. In fact, Resolution 242 stipulates the inadmissibility of occupying lands by force and stresses the need for Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. In light of this, Syria agreed to take part in the Madrid conference and the bilateral talks. But it refused along with Lebanon to participate in the multilateral talks unless tangible and substantial progress was made in the bilateral talks.

This has been Syria's position from the beginning of the peace process—a position which has not changed at all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

since the United States and the other parties involved agreed to launch the peace process. Syria cooperated with the sponsors of the peace process throughout the various stages in light of that very position, eager to see progress toward the goal of establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

The Syrian position is not temporary and is not the result of coercive circumstances, weakness, or fear. Rather, it was part of the policy Syria has adopted for over a quarter of a century—a policy which is based on the Syrian desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region by regaining the occupied Arab territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination. Such a peace should regain the rights of all parties and should preserve their dignity, security, and stability. Therefore, peace to Syria is an ongoing strategic policy for which it is working while preserving its freedom, sovereignty, and will.

Unlike the Syrian strategic view, Israel adopted intransigent and obstructionist positions to strip the peace process of its substance. Shamir's government was more candid in its rejection and intransigence. Shamir sent a reply letter to President George Bush rejecting the bases of the peace process. When he was forced to attend the Madrid Conference, he presented arguments that indicated a strong opposition to the peace process and its bases. When Rabin came to power under the slogans of peace and assurances to the Israeli voter to boost the stumbling peace process, his government used deceptive tactics and maneuvers and obstructed the path of peace. It thought that through deception and dealing separately with one Arab party after the other, and by establishing incomplete and distorted peace instead of comprehensive peace, it could achieve hegemony and maintain occupation and supremacy. These attempts, however, were confronted by a Syrian firmness. Syria's clear and earnest position aborted the Israeli attempts one after the other. That position was not influenced by the involvement of certain Arab states, which slipped into the Israeli trap.

On the other hand, Syria pursued the following course in the peace process:

1. It categorically rejected secret talks and stressed that it had nothing to hide or to be ashamed of in the negotiations or the endeavor to achieve peace and boost the peace process.

2. It stressed that incomplete peace that is based on separate deals cannot survive. Endurable peace is peace that ends occupation and obliterates the seeds of conflict in the future.

3. Syria does not accept a peace that relinquishes a grain of national soil. Nor does it approve of any peace that is not honorable, that does not secure dignity and sovereignty, and that is not accepted by the people. This is the same kind of peace we spoke about very loudly during the October War of liberation and which we still call for.

4. Syria stresses that peace is linked to security and that security arrangements are not a substitute to complete and full withdrawal, but are one of several elements, without which peace cannot be established.

5. Syria stresses that the security of one party cannot be established at the expense of another and that security arrangements must be balanced, integrated [mutakamilah], and equal between Syria and Israel.

6. Syria will in no way accept any bargaining over Israel's complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and the return of all land, without any encroachment on its national sovereignty.

Syria believes that the peace battle is as significant as the military battle. Under no circumstances will it allow Israel to achieve through peace at the negotiating table what it failed to achieve on the ground through war and aggression. Syria will not relinquish an iota of its soil, and will not agree to anything other than an honorable peace that would be accepted by the people, and supported by the Arab nation's masses.

I would like to recall what President Hafiz al-Asad said in his directive speech to the Armed Forces on 1 August: "He who can defend his homeland in war can also defend it in peace."

The future of peace in the region depends on Israel's response to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, which were ratified by international legitimacy, stipulated in the UN resolutions, and formed the basis for the peace initiative. Unless Israel responds to these demands, it will be difficult to expect any progress in the peace process, or achieve a viable peace in the region.

For its part, Syria has done all it can to render the peace process a success. The Israeli party, however, continues to weasel and place obstacles under flimsy pretexts such as those on security arrangements. This shows that Israel is not serious in pursuing peace to its ultimate goal represented in the realization of a just and comprehensive peace.

Nevertheless, Syria will remain faithful to the peace process, and cooperative with all the initiatives that eliminate obstacles from its path, without abandoning its position, which is based on regaining its land and rights

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in full, and rejecting all dictates that would undermine its sovereignty and dignity. It will not, at any stage, fall under the pressure of time or elections here or there.

Syria has sincerely cooperated with the efforts being exerted to advance the peace process, and has proved on more than one occasion, that it is quite serious about this process. Syria's agreement to participate in the military negotiations under U.S. sponsorship and participation, is perhaps a clear indication of its seriousness. Israel, on the other hand, placed obstacles in all rounds of bilateral talks, and in the talks on the ambassadorial level. Similarly, it placed obstacles, created crises, and altered priorities on the military level. If Israel continues to pursue such a manipulative and misleading policy, progress in the peace process will not be possible. Moreover, all those who follow and are concerned with the peace process in the region realize that there will be no tangible progress in the whole peace process unless there is progress on the Syrian track. They also realize that without Syria, peace will never see the light.

[AL-BA'TH] Will you please send a message to your brothers and sons in the Armed Forces on the 50th anniversary of the Army?

[Al-Shihabi] On the 50th anniversary of our Army, we view with pride how this Army has become stronger and more capable of carrying out its duties honestly. There is no doubt that 50 years are not a short period but are not that long compared to the lives of armies and homelands, especially since our Army has become more capable of offering sacrifices.

On this occasion, which is very dear to the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, I can say that in every activity we conduct in our Armed Forces, we are inspired by the words and instructions of the leader of our nation, President Hafiz al-Asad, who represents an example for us all. Our Armed Forces epitomize the values and doctrine of our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The Army, which is being trained and prepared to face all possibilities under the most difficult circumstances under the instructions of its symbol commander President Hafiz al-Asad, will certainly carry out its duties in the best manner.

On this occasion, I extend to our Armed Forces' personnel in the naval, air, and ground forces our heartfelt congratulations on the 50th anniversary of their great Army. I also urge them to remain the impregnable fence, the watchful eye, and the throbbing heart of the lofty homeland, which knows no submission and which does not accept anything less than full liberation of its national soil. Let your efforts, our brothers and sons in our Armed Forces, focus on training, on preparedness, and on your weapons and subordinates. Any attempts to harm our national and pan-Arab positions, as well as our aspirations for liberation, construction, and progress, will be crushed by your steadfastness.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Government Asks Pakistan To Help Establish Peace

LD0308170495 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 3 (IRNA) — The government of Afghanistan has called on the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, to exert all her efforts to make the Afghan parties and religious groups accept the peace offer and take part in the reconstruction of the war torn country.

'Abdol Rahim Ghafuri, deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan in an interview with IRNA on Wednesday [2 August] said that Pakistan is in a position which can help establish peace, stability and understanding between the Afghan mojahedin groups.

He said that in order to settle a lasting peace in Afghanistan, the government of Pakistan must support and strengthen the work done by Mahmoud Mestiri, the United Nation's special envoy on Afghanistan, instead of presenting her own plans.

Ghafuri who was talking on the threshold of a visit to Kabul by Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs [Sardar] Asif Ahmad Ali, accused the government of Islamabad of interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and consequently causing the prolongation of war in this country.

The deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan said that the aim of the visit to Kabul by the foreign minister of Pakistan is to talk on removing the current tension between the two countries and also to reassess the relations between the two governments.

Asif Ahmad Ali is to arrive in Kabul on Thursday for a five day visit.

He is to meet President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud head of the administration of Hezb-e Jam'iyat-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] and the former defence minister, as well as some other top Afghan officials based in Kabul.

Pakistan Minister Arrives, Discusses Relations

LD0308195695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Pohand Sayyaf, member of the State High Council and leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], met today Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

At this meeting, attended also by State Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i and Mr. Qazi Humayun, Pakistan's ambassador in Kabul, talks were held on subjects of mutual interest.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid also met the Pakistani foreign minister this morning. At this meeting both sides discussed ties and relations between the two countries.

According to another report, State Foreign Minister Najibollah Larfa'i met today Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali at the Foreign Ministry. At this meeting, Lafra'i, after welcoming Pakistan's foreign minister, spoke in detail about the country's military and political situation and about continuous efforts of Afghanistan to consolidate peace and security in Afghanistan. He added: Afghanistan is sincerely interested in strengthening relations with Pakistan and is hoping that Afghanistan's goodwill will be reciprocated by Pakistan. Pakistani Foreign Minister Ali then, in explaining the objective of his visit to Kabul, spoke about ties and relations between the two countries and about consolidating and broadening friendly relations. He also spoke about his country's stance regarding the solution of current issues in Afghanistan.

Mr. Ali arrived in Kabul this morning. [passage omitted]

Media Said To Escalate Anti-Pakistan Propaganda

LD0308103995 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 3 (IRNA) — Afghan mass media escalated anti-Islamabad propaganda simultaneously with the five-day visit here of Pakistani Foreign Minister [Sardar] Asif Ahmad Ali, stated this morning.

The Afghan State Television in a commentary Wednesday [2 August] night rejected Islamabad's peace-seeking efforts and said despite its claims to restore peace to Afghanistan, the Pakistani Government is supporting Zahir Shah's representative, Sardar 'Abdolwali.

The TV commentator pointed to a recent announcement by 'Abdolwali on collecting forces to enter into war with Borhanoddin Rabbani's government and asked if steps could be taken for peace while in a war position.

Referring to the fourth round of efforts by the U.N. Special Envoy in Afghan Affairs, Mahmoud Mestiri, the commentator said that measures taken by Pakistani Government as well as Zahir Shah indicated to their impotence in analyzing developments in Afghanistan and to a lack of dependence vis-a-vis aliens and enemies of Islam.

The three-year war in Kabul and other parts of the country is an outcome of dependence on aliens and their subservient groups, stressed the commentator.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabbani, Uzbek Foreign Minister Discuss Relations

LD0308185795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presidential palace this morning, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.

The press office of the presidency reports to BAKHTAR that at this meeting talks were held on historical links between the people of the two countries. It was also pointed out that having good relations and understanding between the two sides would be in the interests of the people and governments of the two countries as well as in the interests of peace in the region.

The esteemed president of our country said:

[Announcer] We want to restore good relations with the Republic of Uzbekistan. Improving relations would be in the interests of peace in the two countries and in the region, and misunderstanding must be removed.

In expressing his government's readiness to improve and to broaden relations between the countries, the foreign minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan briefed the esteemed Afghan president about the convocation of a seminar on economic and regional cooperation. Esteemed Professor Rabbani regarded such a move as a positive action. Regional issues and other subjects of mutual interest were also discussed.

According to another report, esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud also met the Uzbek foreign minister. At this meeting both sides discussed and exchanged views on subjects of mutual interest.

Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs also met Kamilov this morning at the Foreign Ministry headquarters. At the meeting Kamilov, in explaining the purpose of his visit, pointed to the restoration of peace and national unity in Afghanistan. On behalf of Uzbek President Islam Karimov, Kamilov handed to esteemed Dr. Lafra'i an invitation to take part in the forthcoming seminar on consolidation of peace and stability in Asia, due to be held in Tashkent in September this year.

In expressing appreciation for his excellency the Uzbek president's invitation, esteemed Dr. Lafra'i gave assurances regarding the readiness and active participation of the Afghan side in the above seminar. Both sides then exchanged views on subjects of mutual interest and positively assessed the visit by the Uzbek foreign minister in the removal of unfortunate clashes and reciprocal understanding. The meeting was also attended by Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, deputy minister of foreign affairs and charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Tashkent.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Kamilov, at the head of a high-ranking delegation from Uzbekistan, arrived in Kabul this morning on a working visit. After having talks with high-ranking authorities of Afghanistan, Kamilov left Kabul for Pakistan around noon. At Kabul airport he was seen off by Dr. Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; esteemed Abdolrahim Ghafurzai, deputy minister of foreign affairs; head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials of this ministry.

Government Forces Make New Advances in North

LD0308205995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Army forces have made new advances in Baghlan and Samangan Provinces. A large area around Anderab district has been cleared and several other important positions [words indistinct] in Samangan Province were cleared of Dostam's militia. Reports received by BAKHTAR from an Armed Forces source say Islamic Army forces, during a mopping-up operation carried out this morning, have completely cleared (?Koh-e Nabi), Dalqam, and Charmarkdak areas around Anderab district. During this operation, dozens of militiamen were either killed or injured. To remedy this defeat, the militiamen have bombarded these regions. As a result of this bombardment, a number of local people were killed or injured.

According to another report, Islamic Army forces, in coordination with the mojahedin in Samangan Province, have captured today an important and strategic position in the east and the Zargar mountains in the west of Koh-e Tass. During today's operation, a number of heavy and light weapons together with a quantity of ammunition were seized by the Islamic Army.

Koh-e Tass and its 12 important positions came under the control of the mojahedin two days ago. The villages of Mantar, Dehkandi, [three names indistinct] located in Roi Doab district, Samangan Province, were cleared today of Dostam's militia.

According to another report from Jowzjan Province, three commanders of Dostam left today the militia ranks and came over to the side of the Islamic sovereignty in Kohestanat district, Jowzjan Province. Commander Haji Abdol Ahmad, commander Abdol Basir, and commander Shahaboddin, together with their 30 armed men, have joined today the mojahedin in 26 Jehadi Division of Jowzjan Province. The commanders and men are equipped with light and heavy weapons.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India

Article Addresses 'Strain-Prone' Ties With U.S.

BK0208052995 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 29 Jul 95 p 6

[Article by A. Madhavan: "Strains in Indo-US Relations"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE bickering, name-calling and arm- twisting seemed to be over at the beginning of 1995. Even die-hard America-baiters were pausing for breath, if not hailing the turn-around in the strain-prone relationship between India and the US. There was a promise of better times in the air. The Prime Minister's visit to the US in 1994 and the row of high-ranking- Americans visiting India seemed to augur a new awareness of mutually meshing interests and a community of objectives on both sides.

In less than six months that optimism has been dissipated. Some Indians believed that Washington had revalued the potential of India as an economy and market of consequence, as a regional stabiliser and as a back-stopper of China's expanding sphere of influence. The old American grievances against India had not disappeared, but seemed to be kept in abeyance. Washington was believed to have switched to a quietly persuasive mode in preference to abrasive power-plays.

American demands on India were mainly as follows: (1) to open up the Indian market to American producer and consumer goods and to financial services; (2) to protect patents and trade-marks and future plant-genetic innovations; (3) to safeguard under external inspection all nuclear installations and materials; (4) to freeze the development of Prithvi and Agni missiles; (5) to negotiate with militant rebels in Kashmir and with Pakistan on Kashmir's future, without preconditions; (6) to protect the human rights of even terrorists abetted from across the border.

Some observers thought that the US had revised its assessment of the strategic importance of Pakistan after the Cold War was won. The US they believed, could afford to downgrade its link with Pakistan and also upgrade its link with India without detriment to its interests in central and West Asia. But this was fallacious because, although the end of the Cold War altered all calculations impinging on Russia-Afghanistan, the strategic value of Pakistan did not diminish. For America it remains a moderate if not amenable Islamic state which can serve to dampen the fundamentalism of the entire crescent up to the Mediterranean. Further, the continuing instability in Afghanistan, the growing might of China, the chaos in Kashmir, the recalcitrance of Iran and the never-waning risk of war between India and Pakistan make it imperative for Washington to strive for some leverage over Pakistan, especially its military. Add to this, the bleeding of Karachi and the stake of the Pentagon in the Indian Ocean (remember the use of Diego Garcia during the Gulf War), and the case for "the tilt" is unassailable.

Thus if the Clinton Administration is trying to (1) circumvent the Pressler amendment, (2) make light of Chinese M-11 missiles supplied to Pakistan, under the pretext of "not proven", and (3) play down Pakistan's instigation of terrorism in Kashmir, the justification lies in realpolitik. India's glitter has worn off. Maharashtra's second thoughts on the Enron-Dhabol deal are a symptom of political parties vying with one another to be more swadeshi- patriotic than the rest in the pre-election year. Since competitive populism is the price we pay for democracy, it needs no think tank to guess that India's opening up is at an end for the present. "Ajar and no further" seems to be the order of the day. In strategic terms, the US may be viewing India as a liability more than an asset. India's continued opposition to the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], even as a lonely voice, after the US has gained a famous victory at the NPT review conference in April 1995, is understood but not condoned. Though we proclaim we are vindicated by China and France brazenly conducting nuclear tests, apart from the missile test of China off the Taiwan coast, it makes no difference to the fact that the US has succeeded in emplacing a nuclear regime of its choice through wide international consent. India has, sooner or later, either to flout it by going openly nuclear, or to accept it. The US can afford to wait, seeing that the option of defiance will be forbiddingly costly to India in political terms.

We tend to simplify the policies and attitudes of governments and countries into a bold, unilinear outline. But major powers and even middle powers carry on multiple lines of policy at the same time, so that various shades and attitudes can be accommodated without affecting the thrust of overall strategy. The US adopts a combination of hard and soft lines when dealing with countries as diverse as China, Russia, North Korea, Pakistan and India. We too practise confusion, less by design than from poor co-ordination.

We tend to simplify the policies and attitudes of governments and countries into a bold, unilinear outline. But major powers and even middle powers carry on multiple lines of policy at the same time, so that various shades and attitudes can be accommodated without affecting the thrust of overall strategy. The US adopts a combination of hard and soft lines when dealing with countries as diverse as China, Russia, North Korea

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pakistan and India. We too practise confusion, less by design than from poor co-ordination.

For the present, negative factors have obscured the positive in American calculations on South Asia. Democracy as a common bond and shared value is of little relevance in the powerlines of diplomacy, but India can use it to diffuse the adverse impulsion of the US policy which is necessarily bifocal in regard to India-Pakistan. We can also use our kith and kin settled in America to better purpose.

Reportage, Reaction to Enron Deal Cancellation

Maharashtra Government Scraps Project

BK0308114795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra Government has scrapped the controversial contract for the Dabhol power project earlier awarded to the U.S. multinational Enron Power Corporation. It has directed the Maharashtra State Electricity Board to go ahead with the legal procedure immediately to stop the work at Dabhol. Announcing this in the state Legislative Assembly, the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, said the power project was against the interests of Maharashtra, besides being harmful to the environment. Mr. Joshi made the announcement after the Cabinet earlier discussed the report of the review committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Gopinath Munde.

Enron Cites 'Strong Legal Defense'

BK0308140995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BOMBAY, Aug 3 (AFP) — A US consortium building India's largest private power station said Thursday [3 August] it had not been formally notified of the scrapping of the deal by the Maharashtra state government and remained open to discussion.

The Dabhol Power Co. (DPC), a consortium of Enron Corp., General Electric Capital Co. and Bechtel Enterprises, also said it had a "strong legal defense" if the government cancelled the 2.8-billion-dollar contract.

In a statement, the Dabhol Power Co. said it was aware of the announcement by Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi in the state legislature that the deal had been scrapped.

But it said it had received no such formal notification from the authorities.

"The Dabhol Power Co. remains open to discussions with the state government of Maharashtra over any concerns it may have about the project," the statement said.

The DPC also said it has a "strong legal defence under the contract and fully intends to pursue it if necessary."

It added that the Enron-led consortium had "fully complied with Indian and US laws" in negotiating the contract to build a 2,015- megawatt power station in the Maharashtra port of Dabhol.

Enron Corp. is likely to receive "huge" damages from Maharashtra following the cancellation of the 2.8-billion-dollar project, a senior power ministry official said in New Delhi.

The official also said the Indian government had not yet been formally notified by the Hindu nationalist administration of Maharashtra state that it was scrapping the 2,015-megawatt power project.

"We have not received a formal cancellation letter from the state government and the central government is in the dark on what basis it was cancelled," he said.

Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi said the new government of Maharashtra was pulling out of the agreement with the Houston- based firm because it was not in the interests of consumers.

The power ministry official said Enron would appear to have a solid case if it decided to press for compensation.

"Enron could win any case for claiming damages as the agreement entered into with the government involves stiff penalties in the case of cancellation of the project," he said. "The exact damages to be paid to Enron could be huge."

Newspaper reports have said that the contract with Enron calls for compensation on the order of some 100 million dollars.

The official said the central government had issued a counter- guarantee on the Enron project and may have to contribute to the compensation.

If so, it would recover the amount by cutting funding paid out to the state, he said. "This way the entire liability is on the state government and not on the centre," he said.

The official also expressed confidence that other "fast-track" power projects would go ahead on schedule. "There will be no effect on foreign investment," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Maharashtra Leaders View 'Scrapping'

BK0308151695 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra Government has scrapped the contract awarded to Enron for the Dabhol power project. It has directed the Maharashtra State Electricity Board to go ahead with the legal procedure immediately to stop the work at Dabhol.

Announcing the decision in the state assembly today, the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, said the power project was against the interests of Maharashtra, besides being harmful to the environment. Mr. Joshi made the announcement after the Cabinet discussed the report of the review committee headed by the deputy chief minister, Mr. Gopinath Munde. The committee submitted its report recently. It was formed to review the 9,000-crore-rupee project after the new Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government came to power in Maharashtra. The committee had gone into all aspects of the project.

Reacting to the Maharashtra Government's decision, the multinational Enron Power Corporation said it has a very strong legal defense available in the project contract and the company intends to pursue this if necessary. The Congress-I leader, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, spoke to Doordarshan about the scrapping of the Enron project.

[Begin recording] [Manohar Joshi] The government after giving due consideration and after discussion has accepted the recommendations of the committee in toto and we feel that it was absolutely necessary, because there were number of mistakes committed by the previous government. Firstly, the capital cost which was shown by the previous government was high; secondly, the actual users — the consumers — would have got the electricity at a very high rate; and thirdly, the environment of the Konkan region would have been affected to a great extent.

[Sharad Pawar] If Government of Maharashtra was serious about industrialization of Maharashtra, requirement of power for industrialization and agriculture, they definitely would have appointed an expert group who understands the requirement of power, about overall projection, about investment which is coming in the fields of industry and agriculture, legal sides, but this particular angle is totally missing here and that is why I am not so surprised for this type of decision which has been taken by the Government of Maharashtra. [end recording]

Spokesman Cites U.S. 'Concern'

BK0308161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Maharashtra Government has scrapped the contract awarded to the multinational Enron Power Corporation for the Dabhol power project. Announcing this in both the houses of the state legislature today, the chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, said that the decision has been taken as the agreement was against the interests of Maharashtra. [passage omitted]

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in New Delhi expressed his government's concern over the cancellation of the project.

Meanwhile, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said that the state government has the right to review the decisions of the previous government. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, he however refused to comment on scrapping of the project.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has welcomed the decision. A statement issued by Mr. L.K. Advani, called the decision correct. The party spokesman also said that it will be wrong to conclude that the Maharashtra Government is against foreign investment. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the Janata Dal have welcomed the decision to cancel the agreement with Enron. The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry has described the cancellation of the project as unfortunate.

The scrapping of the Enron project had its bearing on the Bombay and Delhi stock exchanges. The national index dropped by 14.26 points. In Bombay, the index plunged by 66.44 points, while DSE [Delhi Stock Exchange] index declined by 5.09 points.

Opposition Hails Cancellation

BK0308110295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI Aug 3 AFP) — India's main opposition party on Thursday [3 August] hailed the cancellation of a 2.8-billion-dollar power project being built by Enron Corp. of the United States in the western state of Maharashtra.

The Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) said the agreement to build a 2,015-megawatt plant in the Maharashtra port of Dabhol deserved to be axed.

"We are of the opinion that a deal must survive on the strength of its merits," BJP spokeswoman Sushma

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Swaraja told AFP. "This deal did not deserve to survive on merits because there was no transparency."

The BJP is part of a coalition government in Maharashtra headed by the Hindu militant Shiv Sena (Shivaji's Army) party, which took office in March after ousting the Congress (I) party of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Swaraj said the Maharashtra government was not opposed to foreign investment.

"We are not against foreign investment as such," she said. "We are not against Enron as a firm. We are only against this particular deal because there was no transparency."

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), the country's dominant left-wing group which organised street protests against the project, said Enron deserved to go.

"The decision ... is welcome," said party leader Prakash Karat.

"Our party and many others have been asking for cancellation of the project because of the inflated costs and the unjustified favours extended to Enron Corp.," he said.

Karat dismissed fears that cancellation of the project would halt the flow of foreign investment into India.

"It will send a signal that in future foreign investments should be conducted in a transparent manner and the genuine mutual interests of both the country and investors should be safeguarded," he said.

Minister Expects No 'Adverse Effect'

BK0408030695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra deputy chief minister, Mr. Gopinath Munde, has said the scrapping of the Enron deal will not have any adverse effect on the power situation in the state. Speaking to our Bombay correspondent, Mohan Chander, this morning, he expressed the view that the state government will not have to pay any compensation to the company if it goes to the court. Answering a question, Mr. Munde said only the state cabinet can take a decision on the company's offer for further talks.

The Maharashtra government announced the scrapping of the 9,030-crore rupee power project yesterday.

Party Official Expresses 'Concern'

BK0408091595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The center has expressed concern over the possible fallout on the investment climate in the country following Maharashtra government's decision to scrap the Enron power project. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, the power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, said the five grounds stated for scrapping the contract appear to be similar to those mentioned in writ petitions filed in Bombay and Delhi high courts and the Supreme Court. He said the courts had upheld the validity of the contract. Mr. Salve said while the matter is essentially between the Maharashtra government, its electricity board, and Dabhol power project, the central government is directly concerned over its liabilities under the counterguarantees.

The minister also pointed out that the legal and economic implications of the decision of the Maharashtra government are under examination. Earlier, raising the issue during zero hour, Mr. Moreshwar Savey, Congress-I, expressed concern on the scrapping of the project by the Maharashtra government. Demanding appointment of a committee to inquire into the whole issue, he said the scrapping of the project will adversely affect the industry and agriculture in the state. The opposition members, however, expressed happiness over Maharashtra government's decision and said it has been taken after due consideration. They also wanted to review all similar power projects.

Rao Visit to Malaysia, Business Prospects Viewed

BK0108100195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Aug 95

[Commentary by A. Karuppaswamy, AIR special correspondent in Kuala Lumpur]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Malaysia — keen to strengthen bilateral ties — will sign a series of business accords during the prime minister's visit to Kuala Lumpur beginning on Wednesday [2 August]. During his four-day visit, Mr. Narasimha Rao will have talks on India's efforts to break into lucrative preferential trade area formed by members of the ASEAN. Geographically, India cannot join the group but ideologically New Delhi is far closer to these nations than the Western and American countries. On several trade matters, as in the Uruguay round of talks and after the formation of the World Trade Organization [WTO], ASEAN's stand closely resembled India's view. The most important of them is that international trade and development aid should not be linked to the social

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

standards in developing countries. Becoming a full-fledged dialogue partner of the group can help New Delhi keep abreast of a fast-growing market with a combined population of some 420 million people. The market is going to be bigger than Europe. It is this perception that has prompted both India and Malaysia to explore seriously new areas of cooperation to take advantage of the world economy which is set to enter a new era of freer trade under WTO.

The visit of a high-level trade and investment mission of Malaysia to New Delhi just before a reciprocal visit by Indian businessmen to Kuala Lumpur speaks of the importance and the seriousness of mutual business. The firsthand information that the Malaysian businessmen had on the present industrial climate in India and the meeting of the Malaysian minister for international trade and industry with Mr. Karunakaran and Mr. Narasimha Rao should have convinced the mission enough of the favorable climate in India. Similarly, Malaysia's robust economy with an average annual 8.8 percent industrial growth in the last seven years offers immense scope for Indian businessmen to invest in Malaysia. Political stability, favorable investment climate, and strategic location in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region are among the factors that are very inviting. Other factors include the active promotion of the manufacturing sector, emphasis on research and development, and the continuing efforts by the government to reduce red tape to help the business community. The government has reduced corporate tax to 30 percent in the 1995 budget and embarked on a massive infrastructure development. Moreover, import duties on components and parts have been abolished to promote the manufacturing industries. Plans are also under way to augment and supply skilled and semi-skilled labor to meet the country's requirements. To sum up, the government is continuing to make Malaysia business-friendly.

Rao Visits Malaysia, Views Enron Deal Situation

BK0408100495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao said here Friday [4 August] he was sure a solution could be found to the problem faced by US-based Enron Corp. over the scrapping of its power project by the Indian state of Maharashtra.

"When you get into a difficult situation, you find a way to get out of it. I am sure something like that will happen," said Rao, who is currently in Malaysia for a four-day official visit.

He did not explain whether he meant that the 2.8-billion-dollar project could be salvaged or that an amicable settlement would be pursued.

Rao, in a political lecture to Malaysian diplomats and senior government officers, declined direct comment on the move by the Maharashtra state government to scrap India's biggest foreign invesment.

Iran

Daily Warns Kurds: U.S. Can Never Be A Reliable Friend

NC0308203395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. After Its Own Interests, Not the Kurds'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A U.S. State Department official responsible for the Kurdish region, Robert Deutsch, claiming that Iran could play "no constructive role" in bringing about peace between the warring Kurdish groups, has warned Iraqi Kurdish leaders against any dealings with Iran. Probably Deutsch, like Warren Christopher and several other U.S. officials, has been directed by Zionist circles to close his eyes to the situation on the ground. The fact that Iran has played a crucial role in bringing about peace in several regional countries ridden with civil war is clear. It was a couple of days ago when Iran mediated between the Tajik Government and the opposition to sign a peace deal in Tehran.

Iran's peacemaking record in the region is bright. It mediated between the warring factions in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. Tehran also held tripartite talks to help bring about peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

That U.S. officials do not want to accept these realities is another story. The U.S. has proved to be a staunch supporter of the dirty policy of "divide and rule." The nature of the U.S. economy— dependence on arms sales as it mainstay—demands that it add fuel to the fire of regional conflicts.

Although apparently a proponent of human rights and a defender of peace, the U.S. has been the world's chief warmonger. In the post-World War II era the United States has militarily invaded Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iran, Iraq and Haiti. It has engineered coups and assassination plots in numerous countries.

Indeed, Mas'ud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan have agreed to join the U.S.-mediated talks to work out their differences. The two Kurdish leaders

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

should bear in mind that the U.S. can never be a reliable friend. In fact, the U.S. has invaded Iraq, dismantled its infrastructure, and imposed an unfair embargo on their country which has wreaked havoc with the lives of innocent people.

Let us hope that Barzani and Talabani will prove to U.S. officials that they, as sons of the Iraqi soil, would not compromise the territorial integrity of their country for any imperialist-sponsored advantage, no matter how tempting it might be. Let us also hope that, during their talks with the Americans, the Kurdish leaders realize that U.S. politicians are only after their own illegitimate interests in every corner of the world.

Daily Views Warning to U.S. on Suspect Extradition

NC0408083995 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 31 Jul 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The United States and State Terrorism Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint efforts by the United States and Zionism to extradite Musa Abu-Marzuq, leader of the Islamic Resistance (Hamas), to Israel, have sparked off new rage against the United States in the occupied territories of Palestine.

Abu-Marzuq was arrested by the U.S. police on Saturday [29 July] when he arrived at New York Airport. Reliable reports indicate that the arrest was on the personal orders of U.S. President Clinton. U.S. officials have accused Abu-Marzuq of links with terrorist groups and allege that they have documents to prove this.

A new wave of rage and protests against the latest attempt by the United States is rising in the occupied territories and 10 Palestinian organizations and groups have issued a joint statement warning the United States of the consequences of extraditing Abu-Marzuq.

The Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine—Hamas—has issued a strong statement demanding the immediate release of Abu-Marzuq and warning officials in Washington of the consequences of any decision to extradite him to the Zionists.

Reports indicate that there were no legal obstacles as far as Abu-Marzuq's trip to New York was concerned and that legal procedures had been followed. Thus, the arrest and U.S. effort to extradite him to Israel are tantamount to a blatant violation of human rights and a flagrant act of kidnapping and state terrorism.

Although Clinton and the other officials in Washington may want to use the leader of Hamas as part of their commitment to Zionism, as bait to gain the vote of the Zionist lobby in the upcoming presidential elections, Washington should think about the consequences of this act and be aware that any step could spark off the uncontrollable rage of the Palestinians and of the powerful supporters of Hamas against the United States.

Although Hamas has not clarified what decisions it will make, it is clear that Washington will be greatly harmed, since it is responsible for forcing the Palestinians to react and to act against U.S. citizens and interests.

With Abu-Marzuq's arrest, the United States has again resorted to state terrorism and is trying to use this state terrorism to pave the way for its inhuman objectives. The role of the Zionists in all this is clear. But the issue here is that the Israelis have implemented their own views on U.S. territory in the name of the law and that the Americans have actually become the servants of Israel and are acting on its orders. This act is blatant; it is kidnap. Abu- Marzuq's arrest comes when the U.S. police have no clear evidence against him; they have arrested him on the empty charge of terrorism, solely to meet Israel's demands and on Clinton's orders.

Even if Zionist propaganda distorts the anti-occupation struggle of the Palestinian and the Lebanese people and portrays it as terrorism, all the freedom-loving nations and people know that an anti-occupation struggle is the natural right of each nation. Nations respect the breathtaking struggle by the Palestinian people against the criminal Zionists and they express their heartfelt wishes that such a justice-seeking struggle will continue and emerge victorious.

Abu-Marzuq and all the activists in the struggle against the Zionist occupiers are soldiers who have very fervently and alertly chosen to tread the path of martyrdom, knowing the consequences and knowing from the start that they might one day be imprisoned or tortured because of their struggle against the Israeli occupier. But they never doubted and never will doubt the need to continue on this path.

Even if Israel can force the U.S. officials to obey it more strictly and to pave the way for Abu-Marzuq's extradition, it should be confident that continuing the Palestinians' spontaneous uprising does not depend on the life of someone like Abu-Marzuq. The intifadah is a popular movement; even if the prominent Palestinian leaders are arrested, this movement will not be hindered. But any step the United States and Israel take to extradite him will be met with the rage of those who do not want to see the struggle against the occupiers blocked and will remove the obstacles on this path with their steely determination and in any way they deem suitable. Naturally, under such conditions, the main losers in the disgraceful U.S.-Zionist game will be those who want to change the fate of the Palestinian nation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and become accomplices in the savage Zionist crimes by supporting the occupiers.

UN Assailed for 'Silence' on Bosnian 'Massacre'

LD0408102895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ayatollah Jannati [secretary of the Guardians Council] preached today's Friday [4 August] prayer sermons in Tehran.

He thanked the people for their extensive participation in the rally expressing solidarity with the defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said: The people of Islamic Iran, with their participation in these demonstrations, expressed their hatred of the enemies of Islam and showed that Muslims cannot remain silent in the face of injustice.

The representative of the Vali-e Faqih [Khamene'i] in the affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina added: The United Nations has totally lost its credit because of its silence and indifference towards the merciless massacre of the Bosnian people.

Ayatollah Jannati said: With their participation in these rallies, the people once again displayed their loyalty to Islam, the revolution, and the lofty aspirations of his holiness Imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise. The also rejected any kind of ties with America. [passage omitted]

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran continued his remarks by paying tribute to the judiciary and the Intelligence Ministry for their confrontation against social vices and economic corruption.

Ayatollah Jannati also urged the people to adhere to discipline in their economic activities and invited them to avoid wasteful consumption.

Daily Assails UN Secretary General's Performance

LD3107101295 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Measures taken by the U.N. for bringing peace and security in trouble spots of the world need not be elaborated, wrote a morning daily adding that the masses in general have suffered much because of U.N. intervention on the pretext of bettering their lot.

The English-language morning daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its Monday [31 July] editorial commented on the performance of the U.N. Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, to find a solution for the crisis in trouble spots of the world and his failure to establish peace in those areas.

As a matter of fact it was not only in Bosnia that the U.N. chief executive failed to establish peace and safeguard innocent and defenseless masses, his record in other trouble-ridden countries was not better, argued the editorial.

It referred to new plan of the U.N. to bring peace in Afghanistan which included establishment of cease-fire, formation of a provisional government and power transition by a council compromising representatives from all Afghan provinces and said there were no signs that anything was going to [word indistinct] or because of the incompetency of Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali?" asked the daily.

It concluded by saying, "evidently both assertion exist. However, given the chief executive's track record, the latter seems to be more tangible today."

Daily Urges Muslims To 'Stand Firm' for Bosnia

LD0308165695 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 3., IRNA — The Persian Daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in a political commentary Thursday [3 August] criticized the United Nations for exploiting pseudo-humanitarian measures in relation to the conflict in the Balkans that had only protected the Serbs in their criminal perpetrations against Bosnian Muslims.

It said that the Muslim world should stand firm in its commitments to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and must react in a manner that will for all time in the future make all would-be aggressors think twice before they may be tempted to trample on the rights of the Muslim peoples.

The commentary said:

"The Muslim world must stand for ever firmly on its mature, logical and just position and proceed to action with a firm determination in a bid to defend and protect the oppressed people of Bosnia at the heart of Europe. Any indecision, for whatsoever reason, will certainly be to the detriment of the entire Muslim world. The time has long since been over due, and if anyone should be waivering in his feelings tomorrow then perhaps all opportunities will then have been lost.

"The outcry of our nation today will prepare conditions for the universal outcry of the Muslim world tomorrow. All people should call on Muslim governments and Muslim nations to arrive at a decision and take action

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in that respect. Every nation should undertake its own portion within the bounds of its capacity.

"The Muslim world has already washed its hands of the UN Security Council and should, therefore, not have the slightest qualm about whether they should go ahead with their decisions. Every bold and serious action by world governments today will ensure the pride, and authority and dignity of the Muslim nations tomorrow. Let no government hence be tempted to pound a blow on the oppressed Muslims of the world.

"It is the duty of us Muslim nations to rush to the aid of the oppressed people in Bosnia-Herzegovina acting seriously, effectively and consistently with the implications of the holocaust in Bosnia- Herzegovina, and preventing their death in the inroads of the savage Serbs and the violation of Bosnian girls and women.

"Even the mischievous Britons who insist that the road to Muslim aids to Bosnia-Herzegovina should be blocked must be forewarned. Should the Britons or any other nation, nonetheless, be tempted to try mischievous devices then in that case obviously the adoption of economic and political punitive measures against them will be indispensable.

"We can and we must put an end to this hellish condition. But to do that the Muslim world must first have arrived at a definitive consensus, and it seems it already has."

Daily Reports 'Large-Scale Changes' for Army

MM0308115595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Iran Awaits Large-Scale Changes in the Army and a Generation Absolutely Loyal to Khamene'i To Fill Vacant Posts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Supreme Guide in Iran, has ordered a large-scale restructuring operation of the Iranian Armed Forces which might lead to the dismissal of many senior officers in both the Iranian Army and the Revolutionary Guards.

According to well-informed sources in Tehran, the restructuring is expected to be announced during the current month of August. The senior officers expected to be pensioned off include Commander of the Revolutionary Guards Mohsen Reza'i.

One of the important developments signifying this restructuring operation was the appointment by Khamene'i a few weeks ago of one of his close aides, namely Hasan Feroz Abadi [name as transliterated] as chief of staff of the Armed Forces General Command. Feroz Abadi is a 41-year-old doctor whom Khamene'i granted the rank of general, which has been the most senior military rank in Iran since the mullahs assumed power in the country in 1979. Observers considered this appointment a political coup aimed at tightening Khamene'i's grip on the armed forces, particularly since Feroz Abadi used to work, prior to his sudden promotion, with the "Mobilization of the Oppressed" [Basij Mustad'afin], which is a paramilitary force created with a view to facing up to the government's opponents should a campaign of disobedience or armed rebellion be declared in Tehran and other major cities.

It is noteworthy in this regard that in the past, the Iranian Government used to rely in combating riots and mutiny on the Revolutionary Guards, a force created by Ayatollah Khamene'i to ensure the Iranian regime's steadfastness against any military coup that might be staged by the army. But fears mounted in recent years that the Revolutionary Guards might themselves entertain coupist ambitions nourished by political greed which would prompt them to act in favor of this or that side in the power struggle among the mullahs.

It was to overcome these fears that the "Mobilization of the Oppressed" ['Askarat al-Mustad'afin] forces were created toward the end of the eighties. The budget of this latter force has quadrupled in the past four years and the number of its members trebled to about 300,000 strong.

The dire need for this force manifested itself clearly last year when the police and the army as well as the Revolutionary Guards refused to suppress the disturbances that flared up in a number of cities including Qazvin, prompting Khamene'i to appeal to the "Mobilization of the Oppressed" to intervene to regain control of the situation in the cities in which disturbances had taken place.

The planned changes coincide with the attainment of retirement age by at least 3,000 officer and noncommissioned officers of the generation inherited from the days of the Shah and the generation which the Iranian revolution promoted in its early years. The departure of these men will enable Khamene'i to promote hundreds of his supporters and loyal aides, thereby strengthening his influence as President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani enters the final year of his term as president of the republic.

According to informed sources, the changes were being prepared on the following basis:

First — the likelihood of external aggression has immensely decreased following Iraq's defeat in the Kuwait War of Liberation and the collapse of the USSR. However, on the other hand, there is a sharp increase in the threat of armed internal disturbances against

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the regime, which has taken the form of robberies, armed assaults, and smuggling. This state of affairs demands the allocation of additional resources for the preservation of discipline and internal security tasks.

Second — it is necessary to promote a new generation of revolutionaries committed to the line of the supreme guide, to replace the generation inherited from the days of the shah as well as the generation of those who remained loyal to Ayatollah Khomeyni and his supposed [muftarad] heir Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Third — it is necessary for the authority of the supreme guide to exercise its constitutional rights in a more effective manner, which means that Khamene'i should impose his position as supreme commander and affirm his right as the one with the first and last word in all matters of foreign and defense policy.

Oil Official Addresses Total, Conoco, Shell Deals

NC0108170095 Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Jul 95 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The director of the Petroleum Ministry's Foreign Companies Department has said full protection from sanctions is planned to be included in the Sirri oil fields deal. It is envisaged to be part of the agreement between the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] and France's Total Company and will take effective immediately after being signed so that the implementation of the agreement will not be interrupted.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, engineer Seyyed Mehdi Hoseyni added: All the issues are included in Tehran and Paris' agreement, which is fully effective; and, if one side does not intend to implement its contents, it will be a breach of contract.

Replying to our correspondent's question as to why Iran has not demanded compensation for the cancellation of the Conoco agreement, he said: The agreement with the U.S. company, Conoco, did not fully protect against sanctions. The final agreement was contingent on approval by the boards of directors of both sides. When Washington announced the sanctions on Iran, the Conoco board of directors refused to implement the agreement, he added.

Saying that no country implements economic projects and agreements with its own capital and meets expenditures through financing by other companies, Hoseyni said: Our policy is not to bribe, it is to implement oil projects through international cooperation.

Hoseyni then referred to past agreements between foreign companies and the NIOC on Sirri Island and stated: One of the positive outcomes of the cancellation of the Iran-Conoco agreement was that the United States' hypocritical policy was revealed.

He said: Total of France was the second international company to answer the NIOC bid to develop the Sirri oil fields. Therefore, immediately after the Conoco agreement was canceled, the NIOC granted Total the project.

Commenting on the Shell company, Hoseyni said: Along with Total beginning operations, other companies, namely Shell and Malaysia's Petronas [name as published], were invited to see if they could make better offers than the French company.

On why Shell refused to sign an agreement with Iran and if this was due to politics (and on whether the Shell officials are Zionists), Hoseyni said: One of the reasons why Shell resisted was that it was not ready to cooperate on this specific project. It will cooperate on other agreements, such as gas production in the southern and northern Pars reserve, and in the construction of an oil pipeline to India.

Hoseyni did not rule out the possibility of political reasons behind Shell's decision and said: After a short delay, on 8 June—exactly one day after the G-7 summit—Shell announced it would not deal with Iran.

Hoseyni refuted reports that the agreement with Conoco amounted to $1 billion and said: Both the Conoco and Shell agreements were for $600 million.

Answering a question on whether Total put conditions on implementing the agreement, Hoseyni said: Total has submitted its proposals and conditions; they are in a 1000-page booklet. The two sides will examine these and reach the final agreement.

On the Petroleum Ministry's strategies on dealing with U.S. oil companies in general and with the U.S. companies planned to operate in the Caspian Sea consortium in particular, he said: As stated by our president, we have no problem dealing with the U.S. private sector. As for the Caspian Sea, we proposed our membership in the consortium and that the gas pipeline from the Republic of Azerbaijan pass through Iranian territory. Our membership was rejected because of U.S. influence. However, they still insist that we cooperate on the transfer of oil. I think we can put pressure on their weak points and make our demands.

Commenting on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, Hoseyni said: The issue of transferring oil is linked to determining the Caspian Sea's legal status.

He also added that even before the consortium was formed, Iran wanted to solve this problem. He said:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We feel that the views of Iran and Russia agree; one of the outcomes of this agreement will be that U.S. investments in the Caspian Sea will weaken. Of course, this is not all that we want. We want to find radical solutions to the problems.

Bandar 'Abbas Oil Refinery Said in Need of Credit

95LA0287A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 May 95 p 4

[Report on interview with 'Abbas 'Abdollah Hariri, general manager of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company, by unidentified correspondents in Bandar 'Abbas; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Service—The value of the products of Bandar 'Abbas Refinery will be $4 million daily. So far, more than $1.35 billion has been spent on building that refinery. If this year's funds are paid and the existing problems eliminated, the refinery will reach operation next year.**

According to a report by the correspondent dispatched by the Economic Service of ABRAR from Bandar 'Abbas, 'Abdollah Hariri, the general manager of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company, made this statement in an interview with reporters who traveled to that city to visit the construction operations of the Bandar 'Abbas Refinery and added:

The Bandar 'Abbas Refinery is currently the largest refinery project of its kind in the world, and the start of operations and the production of 232,000 barrels of various oil products will end the import of processed oil products into the country and make possible the export of these products.

He said: The main contract of the project, after the legal processes and providing the necessary funds, was signed in Esfand 1369 [20 February-20 March 1990] with the participation of an Italian company, "Snam Progetti," and a Japanese company, "Chiyoda Corp."

With the start of the implementation of the project, full attention was paid to the transfer of technology and maximum use of Iranian specialists and resources and the capabilities of domestic factories. The civil and construction affairs and installation of reservoirs were totally conferred on Iranian contractors, and the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company took charge of the mechanical installation of the equipment.

Explaining the work done in the area of building the refinery, Engineer Hariri said: Progress has been made on 97 percent of the engineering work, 44 percent of the construction work, and 65.6 percent of the total work of the plan, and more than 95 percent of the needed supplies have arrived in Bandar 'Abbas.

He pointed out: While the major portion of the expenditures of the refinery have been made, and only $180 million and 440 billion rials [R] and also the elimination of the problems related to the release of goods from Customs remain, we are facing a budget deficit.

The general manager of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company, emphasizing that within a maximum period of four years after operations begin the expenditures of the refinery will be recouped, expressed hope that with the attention of the officials in charge in providing the funds determined and eliminating the problems related to the release of goods, Bandar 'Abbas Refinery will start operation from early next year.

Article Details Goods Exported Mar-Apr

95LA0287E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Service—In Farvardin 1374 [21 March-20 April 1995], the value of non-oil exports of the country reached 43 million tumans.**

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of Iranian Customs, in Farvardin 1374, 1.159 million metric tons of non-oil goods at a value of 430 billion rials [R], equivalent to $246 million, were exported from the country, which compared to Farvardin 1373 [21 March-20 April 1994] shows a significant increase. The weight of exports shows a growth of 250 percent and its value a growth of 32 percent compared to Farvardin 1373. The most important of the exported goods in Farvardin 1374 consists of hand-woven woolen and silk carpets—1,446 metric tons at a value of R150 billion—comprising 35 percent of the total value of exports in Farvardin, and compared to Farvardin 1373, an increase of 1 percent in weight and 10 percent in value.

The second export item was pistachios and shelled pistachio nuts, which was 8,684 metric tons in weight and R54 million in value and was 12 percent of the total value of exports. Compared to a similar period last year, this shows an increase of 44 percent in weight and 49 percent in value.

Other exports include iron and steel, at 688,000 metric tons and a value of R24 billion, as well as chemicals and hides.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pakistan

Officials Finds 'Discrepancies' in Military Sales

BK0208132595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — In a bid to sort out discrepancies in the Foreign Military Sales [FMS] programme, high-ranking officials of Pakistan and the United States will meet in Washington in mid September this year to reconcile the issue.

The Pakistan delegation led by Secretary, Defense Production Mazhar Rafi and including Director-General, Defense Production, will hold extensive talks with their American counterpart to reconcile the discrepancies of the FMS Programme. The Pak-US meeting was earlier expected to be held in the last week of August.

With hopes brightened on the one-time transfer of Pakistan military equipment, official sources told The News on Tuesday [1 August] that "there are some discrepancies found in the FMS cases." They added that there are about 222 cases pending for final resolution: delivery of the equipment or return of money that Pakistan had paid for the equipment.

On the other hand, these sources say the US side had indicated that there are only 174 cases of the FMS and if the US Congress approves, the Clinton administration will release this equipment to Pakistan.

The proposed September meeting of the Pak-US defence officials will be held in the framework of the US-Pak Consultative Group. "It was agreed in the May/June meeting of the consultative that senior officials of both the countries should meet at an appropriate time to discuss the reported discrepancies in the FMS cases," said official sources.

While Islamabad believes that Pakistan-owned equipment worth more than $500 million is blocked by the US under Pressler sanctions, the reports emanating from Washington suggest that "the Administration is asking Congress for permission to deliver $370 million in military equipment to Pakistan." This is non-strategic equipment and will not upset the military balance in the region.

According to official sources, Pakistan may ask the US to return money in place of some of the equipment on the list of FMS programme.

"There is some old equipment lying in the US for the last 5 years and we may suggest to the US side that in place of that equipment, Pakistan should be returned the money so that it could be utilized in purchases form non-American sources", said the sources.

However the recent development in the context of Pak-US defense relations revealed that the Clinton Administration was in no mood to seek Congressional permission for resuming an arms supply relationship with Pakistan.

Minister Meets With Afghan Faction Leader

BK0208142295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, called on the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in Islamabad yesterday. The foreign minister informed Pir Saheb about his forthcoming visit to Afghanistan and discussed with him the UN, the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], and other peace proposals for the solution of Afghan problem. The foreign minister said a solution to the Afghan problem has to come from Afghans themselves. However, Pakistan is ready to give any advice that could contribute to the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Minister Visits Kabul on New Peace Proposals

BK0408024395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has left for Kabul today to start new peace efforts in Afghanistan. According to the program, he is to meet President Borhanoddin Rabbani and other Afghan leaders to exchange with them on proposals advanced by the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Afghan president on ending factional fighting in Afghanistan. Earlier, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov visited the Afghan capital on a similar mission.

Daily Views Minister's Afghan Visit

BK0408084695 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Sardar Asif on a tough mission"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali is expected to reach Afghanistan by the weekend to begin what is expected to be a tough visit. His mission is essentially seen as an exercise that reflects renewed Pakistan interest in war-ravaged Afghanistan, especially in the process of reconciliation and truce that the United Nations, the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] and, lately, the Saudis have been trying to get off the ground. Sardar Asif has another pressing agenda: to assess for himself the complexity of the Afghan infighting and how long it might take to restore some sort of normalcy so that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pakistan's quest for closer economic links with the Central Asian states is translated into reality. Sardar Asif is obviously among those who feel strongly that Pakistan can draw major benefits in case it is able to establish a reliable road-rail link with Central Asia.

It is also true that the foreign minister will find the going particularly trying once he reaches Kabul: the Rabbani government has accused Pakistan of backing the Taleban and Hekmatyar-led forces. Pakistan has consistently denied this, but it has all the same given the impression of giving its moral support to the Taleban. Islamabad has been expressing its unease over President Rabbani's contact with the Indians. New Delhi is reported to have offered both arms and money to President Rabbani to help him contain the still-formidable threat from the fundamentalist student militia. Pakistan does not approve of President Rabbani's efforts to hang on to power despite the fact that his tenure ended about a year ago. This is an additional factor creating tension. President Rabbani has lately consolidated his position in Kabul by rolling back the spectacular Taleban march on the capital. His forces have also been able to neutralise the Shiite pressure around the city. Indeed, Kabul now boasts of peaceful conditions, which have encouraged President Rabbani to stake his claim for playing a key role in the formation of an interim government comprising all Afghan factions. President Rabbani is also averse to the off-and-on moves for giving Zaher Shah, the former Afghan king, any role in the future power-sharing arrangements in Afghanistan. Sardar Asif will no doubt seek to allay President Rabbani's misgivings about Pakistan; but he will also have to tell him in unequivocal terms that the onset of relative peace in Kabul still leaves a lot to be done for a lasting peace in Afghanistan and for this all sides would have to demonstrate a spirit of accommodation and compromise.

Bhutto Addresses 'Defense Requirements' in Speech

BK0408022795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says efforts are underway for defense of the motherland, as a strong defense is the foremost priority of her government. Addressing the darbar [assembly] of forward area troops in Siachen today, she said Pakistan did not harbor aggressive designs against any country, but at the same time it cannot remain oblivious to its defense requirements. She said the government and people of the country are committed to safeguard the sovereignty of Pakistan as well as Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Northern areas.

The prime minister announced 50 million rupees to look after the disabled and widows of the troops and five million rupees for the welfare of jawans [soldiers] stationed at Siachen.

12 Bullet-Riddled Bodies Found in Karachi Bus

BK0308033495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0255 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Aug 3 (AFP) — The bodies of 12 men riddled with bullets were found inside a minibus in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, where four more people were killed Thursday [3 August], police said.

The 12 had their wrists tied and had been shot in the head and chest. The bodies have not yet been identified, and no one has so far claimed responsibility, police said.

The bodies were lying inside the minibus which had been stolen.

"It was just like a slaughter house," a police official said after inspecting the minibus.

However, none of the 12 showed any marks of torture.

Police officials say they do not exclude the possibility of the incident being in retaliation for the death, Wednesday, of Farooq Dada, whom the security forces call a terrorist.

He is said to be a member of the Mihajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Karachi's main political force which represents Urdu-speaking people who migrated to India after the subcontinent's partition in 1947.

Officials say Farooq Dada was killed along with three of his associates during a confrontation with the police.

Four other people were shot dead and a fifth was seriously injured Thursday in Orangi town, to the west of Karachi, the same area (?where) the minibus carnage took place. No other details are available yet.

The fresh outbreak of violence comes at a time when [sentence as received]

More than 2,000 people have died in political and ethnic violence in Karachi in the past 19 months.

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto blames the MQM, which represents the large community of Muhajir migrants who settled here after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, for much of the violence in Karachi.

The MQM denies it is the cause of the unrest, which it attributes to what it calls Bhutto's anti-Muhajir policy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Minister Reaffirms Stand on Karachi 'Terrorists'

BK0308132995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, has reaffirmed that the government will not compromise with the terrorists and criminals and will take all steps within its power to stop the killing of innocent people and restore peace in Karachi. He was addressing a news conference in Karachi today.

Commenting on the killing of innocent people in the Orangi town area today, Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar said it was a reaction of the killing of Farooq Dada and his accomplice who were the most wanted terrorists. He said the government is cognizant of the nefarious designs of the terrorists and is taking measures to foil them. The minister urged the people to exercise tolerance. He disclosed that so far more than 100 hardcore terrorists have either been arrested or killed, but between 1,000 to 1,200 are still operating. With the measures taken by the government, he assured the overall situation in the city will be normalized. He said the terrorists were running short of arms and ammunition due to strict measures taken at borders to check their inflow.

Leaders Comment on Karachi Violence, Talks

BK0408034095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sindh Governor Kamaluddin Asfar has said the people of Karachi are fed up with violence, which represents a big change in the attitude of the people in the city. The governor said that a peace walk would be organized in Karachi early next month. He said the people of different localities have lauded the efforts of the law enforcement agencies for ridding them of terrorists from their areas. The governor made these observations while talking to a 15-member delegatipon of journalists from Lahore and Islamabad, who met him in Karachi yesterday.

Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, federal minister for information and technology, has reiterated the government's commitment to root out terrorism from the country, especially from Karachi. He said the government would not compromise on principles and would strictly enforce its pledge to the people, and every measure would be taken to ensure law and order in the country. Referring to the so-called open letter written by the Altaf group negotiating team addressed to the president, the federal information minister blamed the Altaf Group for causing a deadlock in the talks. He once again advised the Altaf Group to hand over its terrorists to restore peace and tranquility in the city.

Zohair Akram Nadim, a member of the government negotiating team with the Altaf group on the restoration of peace in Karachi, has said the team will formulate its future course of action on the resumption of talks in a couple of days. Talking to APP, he said the team will soon meet in Karachi to finalize its position.

Ajmal Dehlvi, the chief of the Altaf Group negotiating team with the government, says they are expected to meet in Karachi today to discuss the situation caused by the deadlock in the talks. Talking to APP, he said the meeting will take stock of the latest situation and decide whether to resume the talks.

According to a press note issued by the Karachi administration at midnight last night, 22 persons were killed and 12 others injured in different incidents in the city yesterday.

Readiness To Resume Talks With Altaf Group Cited

BK0308154695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law and justice, Mr. N.D. Khan, has said the government is ready to call Altaf Group with any name they proposed, but they should also give us the clarifications which are very vital to the state of Pakistan. Talking to the press in Islamabad, he said the government is ready for resuming talks with liberal approach and open mind.

The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, has made a fervent appeal to the people of different communities to exercise restraint and foil the evil designs of terrorists and antisocial elements. He was talking to newsmen in Karachi today. The minister said the government is determined to protect the life, honor and property of every citizen. He said the law enforcing agencies are receiving good cooperation from the people. He described today's incidents, including the killing of people in a coach, as act of cowardice. Referring to the talks between the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], he said the talks are for a solution of political problem in a political manner, while crime has to be dealt with accordingly.

Sri Lanka

President Issues 'Sweeping Constiutional Reforms'

BK0308115895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 3 (AFP) — President Chandrika Kumaratunga Thursday [3 Au-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

gust] announced sweeping constitutional reforms which would turn Sri Lanka into a federal state in all but name in a bid to end the country's protracted ethnic war.

Kumaratunga proposed extensive autonomy to minority Tamils in exchange for an end to the conflict which has claimed more than 50,000 lives in the past 23 years.

In a 12-page devolution package, Kumaratunga proposed dividing the country into eight administrative regions which will have exclusive legislative powers and control over key areas such as land, finance and law and order.

She made a key territorial concession to Tamils by joining two existing provinces — the northern and eastern provinces — to create a single region by redemarcating boundaries drawn up by British colonial rulers.

Sri Lanka will be known as a Union of Regions if the devolution package wins the approval of parliament by a two thirds majority and is ratified in a national referendum.

In a separate seven-page address to the nation, Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community said the proposals would deeply influence the future of the strife-torn island.

She said the security forces were continuing their offensive against the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in the north of the island but minority problems could not be solved militarily.

"The current military campaign is not, by any means, one directed against the Tamil people but is a battle for peace waged only against the enemies of peace...

"This is our moment in history. Let us together grasp it and dispel hatred and distrust and frame a common future which we can all be proud of," Kumaratunga said.

Under the proposed plan, the chief minister of a region will have extensive powers in areas excluding foreign affairs, national defence, monetary policy, international transport, immigration, banking and insurance.

President Explains Proposals To End Conflict

'Text' of Speech

BK0308162095 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1355 GMT 3 Aug 95

["Pool" item; LANKAPUVATH headline "Sri Lanka: President Chandrika Bandaranaike in Televised Address to the Nation Spells Out Proposals To End North-East Conflict and Solve Ethnic Problem in Sri Lanka and Places Them Before the People"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 3 (LANKAPUVATH) — In a clear and succinct address to the nation on Sri Lanka's national television network Rupavahini Thursday [3 August] night, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga spelled out the Peoples Alliance government's proposals to end the 12 year long north-east conflict and the ethnic problem and placed them before the people.

President Kumaratunga said the government was seeking to rebuild the constitutional foundation of a plural society within a united and sovereign Republic of Sri Lanka. This republic will be a union of regions.

President Kumaratunga said the scheme of devolution envisages constituting regional councils for every province with exclusive legislative and executive competence. In the north-east, there would be a redemarcation of existing provincial boundaries with full consultation to ensure a reconciliation of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim interests.

Each region would have a regional council with the legislative competence within the devolved sphere and a governor and a board of ministers who will exercise the executive power of the region. The governor will be appointed by the president with the concurrence of the chief minister and the governor shall act on the advice of the chief minister and the board of ministers. The governor will call upon the person who commands the confidence of the majority in the regional council to form the regional administration. The chief minister cannot be removed from office so long as he enjoys the confidence of the regional council.

The subjects to be devolved and those to be retained by the centre are set out in detail in the proposals. In the demarcation of the relative powers and responsibilities of the centre and the region, there would be no concurrent list. In this regard, the centre would retain defence, national security, foreign affairs, immigration, currency, international economic relations, monetary policy, airports and harbours, inter-regional transport, national media, national archives and museums, and archaeological sites declared by law to be of national importance, banking and insurance, Buddhism and inter-regional irrigation. The full list of subjects reserved to the centre will be in the proposals. The subjects and functions exclusively devolved on the region would include education and educational service, local government, housing and construction, agriculture, health, irrigation within a region, transport, industries and industrial development fisheries and social security.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In the field of law and order there would be a national police service responsible for investigating the offenses against the state, and threats to national security and it would be headed by a national IGP [inspector general of police] who would be responsible to the central government.

There will be a regional police service responsible to the relevant chief minister.

A regional police commission will be responsible for the recruitment and disciplinary control of the members of the regional police service.

Land will be a devolved subject and state land within a region will be vested in the regional councils. State land within a region required for the purposes of the centre in respect of a reserved subject shall be utilised by the centre in accordance with such procedures as may be established by law.

There will be a high court and a regional judicial service commission in every region. The high court will exercise criminal, appellate and writ jurisdiction within the region. There would also be a regional public service and the regional public service commission which will be responsible for recruitment and disciplinary control of all persons employed by or seconded to the regional councils.

Regional councils will have powers of taxation and there would be other arrangements for the sharing and assignment of revenue. A devolution commission will seek to resolve through mediation and adjudication centre regional disputes.

The constitutional framework relating to devolution will ensure that Sri Lanka is a united and sovereign republic and that it is a union of regions.

Text of the speech of HE [Her Excellency] the President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on 3rd August 1995 at 10.25 PM [1655 GMT] on Sri Lanka's television network Rupavahini.

Most venerable members of the Maha Sangha [Buddhist religious organization], members of the clergy, brothers and sisters!

We Sri Lankans today are faced with the most decisive and challenging moment in our centuries old history. The decisions we make today are so fundamental that they will deeply influence and shape our destiny for many generations.

The aspir_ion of the entire Sri Lankan populace is that the current national crisis centred around the north and the east, be brought to a peaceful, just and honourable settlement, ushering in an era of tranquillity and harmony. This crisis has, for the last few decades, drawn the entire Sri Lankan people without discrimination, be they Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim or Burgher, to the point of ruin, impacting adversely on all aspects of our national life. The ultimate consequence of this debilitating conflict is that a pall of gloom is cast over the life of the nation.

It is not only the wealth of the nation, not only the security and property of our people that is at stake but the very future of our children is now placed at risk. It is the major obstacle in the path of our progress, as a country and a nation. The reversal of our development efforts, increasing inflation and the cost of living and erosion of investor confidence further exacerbating the problem of unemployment are all direct results of the war. This is true, not only of economic development, but democratic values and basic human freedoms are all endangered, driving our nation to the brink of disaster.

The tragic loss of the nation's children of all communities is woefully apparent. Murders, shootings, bombings and the like have created a situation where it is impossible for a person to walk on the streets devoid of fear for his or her life.

It is vital that we liberate ourselves from this unmitigated crisis. This is the challenge facing us. The only way this can be achieved is by eschewing divisions based on race, religion and political orientation and forging ahead, united in thought and deed, as one people. This is the central challenge faced by every Sri Lankan and this is the only means by which we can resolve this crisis.

The one major factor readily apparent to an objective analyst of the genesis and history of this national question is this: During the 50 years since the end of the colonial era, the aspirations of the Tamil people were not adequately fulfilled within the parameters of the political process. Instead, a regrettable feature of the history of contemporary attempts to address their demands consisted of the disingenuous methods resorted to by successive governments. These resulted in acts of outright violence leading to the entrenchment of inter-racial anger, animosity and mutual mistrust amongst the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher communities. Consequently, we have had to suffer the bitter experience of witnessing the end of peaceful coexistence, so much a part of our cultural heritage built up over 2500 years. The humanistic principles which formed an integral part of the social fabric of Sri Lanka were shattered during "black July" of 1983 [killing of 13 soldiers near Jaffna followed by massacres of Tamils], an event which made a bloody imprint on the pages of history and which serves as a constant reminder of our unhappy quandary.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Fellow citizens!

I would like you to reflect on two further aspects of the current situation. Firstly, you who are heirs to this country's heritage need not bear the weight of these shameful memories any longer. You are ready to cast off this burden from your shoulders. Secondly, we who have been entrusted with the governance of this country are equally ready to shun the lust for power, the instrumentality of state sponsored violence and the pursuit of narrow short-term political gain. Our government which bears the responsibility for conducting matters of state stands ready to repudiate former attitudes and strategies.

What, then, is the responsibility devolving on us all?

It is the identification of the root causes underlying the current crisis which has persisted for so many years and the evolution of a rapid solution to these vexed issues. The first task is, therefore, a new approach predicated on unqualified acceptance of the fact that the Tamil people have genuine grievances for which solutions must be found.

The polity of a country must be structured on the basic premise that all sections of society are entitled to recognition as constructive partners in a pluralistic democracy. This is the fundamental principle on which our political vision is based.

In our view, therefore, the solution to the current problem lies in the implementation of a viable political solution of the contentious issues. This belief is at the very core of our political outlook which was in the manifesto of the people's alliance. This has been endorsed in the most emphatic terms possible by millions of people who voted for the alliance at two consecutive elections. We have received the people's unequivocal mandate to resolve this problem through the implementation of a political solution.

The attainment of this goal represents a challenge which is daunting by its enormity. We have the courage to accept this challenge and the commitment to carry it through to an end.

My government and I, with total sincerity of conviction, now place before you a series of proposals aimed at a lasting political solution. The proposals have not been arbitrarily or hastily formulated. They have been prepared in consultation with many responsible persons who have gained an insight into the current crisis. In essential terms, they represent continuity with similar attempts which have been made in the past in many policy-making fora. Each and every one of you will be afforded the opportunity of actively engaging in this exercise by articulating your views as the debate progresses. Your reactions in the immediate future will also assist us in giving full effect to the principle of complete openness with regard to the policy decisions of the government.

From the inception of the present administration, the government demonstrably displayed its honest commitment to the achievement of peace, but the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] spurned the hand of friendship extended to them, and is now engaged in fighting a war against the government and against a peaceful resolution of the crisis the LTTE are prosecuting the war by usurping the democratic rights of the people whom they claim to represent.

The Armed Forces of the Sri Lankan Government are seeking to free the people of the north in an effort to give position to their hopes and aspiration for peace. The current military action is not, by any means, one directed against the Tamil people but is a battle for peace waged only against the enemies of peace.

The war is being fought according to a well defined strategy. Our only goal in this war is peace. The Tamil people are aware that there is now in power a government which is prepared to address their problems and propose pragmatic solutions at the political level. Recourse to arms is therefore unnecessary, all that is now required is the spirit of goodwill and cooperation among all the groups concerned in working out, with thoroughness and determination, the basis of a political settlement which will bring peace, stability and prosperity to the Sri Lankan community as a whole.

Our Armed Forces have demonstrated their ability and willingness to take on and overcome the LTTE. They have fully accepted that the war is being fought not against the Tamil people, but against the LTTE. The heads of the Armed Forces have directed their officers in keeping with the above policy and along the lines of a well-planned campaign.

I wish to express my gratitude and that of the Government of Sri Lanka to those members of our Armed Forces, the police and the homeguards who have fought heroically and selflessly for the achievement of these ends, sometimes at the cost of their lives. We express our boundless gratitude and appreciation to them.

Venerable members of the Maha Sangha, rev. sisters and my fellow Sri Lankans! We are meeting the armed attacks of the LTTE with a well planned military company. But military means alone cannot solve the minority problems of the people of Sri Lanka. For a lasting solution to the prevailing crisis, we have to evolve political solutions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

My government is now ready to face the challenge effectively and honestly. As we express these thoughts, we are acutely aware that extremist forces which are against the government and peace, are striving directly and indirectly to frustrate our efforts. The first comment I would make regarding such forces is that they have not propounded a viable alternative to the measures proposed by us. Their course of action consists of exhorting others to make war, while they themselves hide behind follow, extremist views filled with hatred. I earnestly urge you to reject. [sentence as received]

We have travelled far in a very short time along the path we have chosen. Our passage was rendered smooth by the support you gave us. We have received wide-spread approval from the international community. Even in the midst of a war, we have received hitherto unprecedented commitments of foreign aid. Many nations in Asia, the Middle East, in the West have expressed their support for the government, and their strong displeasure with the LTTE's course of action.

We request your continued support and blessings in our quest for peace. We are unshaken in our commitment to achieve the reconstruction of a new society based on equality, justice and mutual co-operation. My earnest wish is that we go forward fortified with your good wishes.

In our policy statement on January 6th 1995, we reiterated our commitment to a new vision of Sri Lanka grounded on the principles of equality, accommodation and tolerance. We stated in the statement "we have a vision of Sri Lanka where all communities can live in safety and security, where human dignity is valued and equality of treatment is an accepted norm of public life. We believe that all com [sentence as received — item ends without any further explanation]

President: Rebels 'Unlikely To Accept'

BK0408095995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 4 Aug 95

[Report by by Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 4 (AFP) — President Chandrika Kumaratunga vowed Friday [4 August] to press ahead with her political plan to end Sri Lanka's ethnic bloodshed but said separatist rebels were unlikely to accept it and would have to be defeated.

Kumaratunga said she expected the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to reject the plan for regional autonomy unveiled Thursday and ruled out negotiating with the guerrillas.

"Logically thinking, I don't see how they will accept (the proposals) unless they are militarily weakened," she said. "We are not going to discuss with rebels who are warring with our soldiers."

She said the Tigers had already rejected foreign or international mediation to bring about a settlement.

"We can win the battle militarily. But unless we have a political solution we can't win the war," Kumaratunga said, adding that a "vociferous minority" opposed a political settlement because they wanted war to continue.

The peace package would give extensive autonomy to eight regions, including areas where Tamils dominate. The plan requires a two- thirds majority in parliament and approval at a referendum.

Kumaratunga said she hoped the package would be part of the Sri Lankan constitution "within several months" and hoped the rebels would be defeated by then to allow the restoration of civil administration in the embattled northeast, where the rebels run a de facto separate government.

"We will continue the military offensive as long as the LTTE does not agree to substantially lay down arms and stop the war, not temporarily but permanently," Kumaratunga said.

She expected "majority consensus" for the reforms and hoped the main opposition United National Party (UNP) would back the initiative to end the ethnic bloodletting, which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The UNP said it needed more time to study the plan.

"Whatever the opposition, we do not intend to tear up these proposals," said Kumaratunga. "This is not a stubborn view held by me or my government... This is to satisfy the aspirations of the people."

The influential Sinhala Buddhist clergy and radicals on both sides of the ethnic divide have rejected the plan, calling it a sell-out to the other side.

Kumaratunga said she was unaware of a demand by cabinet minister S. Thondaman that the northeast region should be handed over to the rebels for a five year period as part of a political settlement. The demand goes against government police.

The government had attempted to discuss peace proposals with the LTTE but the militant group pulled out of six months of talks and went back to fighting on April 19.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Buddhist Clergy Opposes Reforms

BK0308122995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Report by Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 3 (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Thursday [3 August] proposed unprecedented autonomy to minority Tamils under a power-for-peace deal aimed at ending the country's 23-year-old civil war.

But her plan, parts of which have already been leaked, have drawn opposition from both within and outside her coalition government.

Kumaratunga, 50, has proposed extensive legislative powers for eight regional councils, effectively making Sri Lanka a federal state in all but name.

Western diplomats said the plan should be acceptable to "any reasonable person" but the influential Sinhala Buddhist clergy and radicals on both sides of the ethnic divide have rejected the plan as a sellout to each other.

The conflict has already claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972.

Under the plan regional chief ministers and their boards of ministers could be removed only by their own people and they would have total powers over key areas such as land, finance and law and order.

Kumaratunga also made a key territorial concession to Tamils by joining two existing provinces — the northern and eastern provinces — to create a single region by redrawing British colonial boundaries.

In an address to the nation she said her plan was aimed at saving the country from the "brink of disaster" and vowed to defeat the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"Our armed forces have demonstrated their ability and willingness to take on and overcome the LTTE. They have fully accepted that the war is being fought not against the Tamil people, but against the LTTE," Kumaratunga said.

However a Tamil minister in her cabinet, S. Thondaman has come out against government policy and demanded in a letter that power be given to the LTTE, something the government has vowed not to do.

"The LTTE which has relentlessly spearheaded the struggle for freedom.... is well equipped to wield power, exercise authority and maintain law and order," said Thondaman who holds the Rural Industrial portfolio.

Thondaman is a member of the Indian Tamil minority.

The LTTE maintains a de facto state in the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka from where it has driven out all dissenting Tamil politicians as well as most of the Sinhalese population and the minority Moslems.

Kumaratunga, who is a member of the Sinhala community which is in a majority in Sri Lanka, promised to address the concerns of the Sinhala and minority Moslem communities living within the Tamil- dominated North-east.

She said: "We request your continued support ... in our quest for peace. We are unshaken in our commitment to achieve the reconstruction of a new society based on equality, justice and mutual cooperation."

Kumaratunga proposed to call Sri Lanka a "Union of Regions" if the devolution package wins the approval of parliament by a two- thirds majority and is ratified at a national referendum.

The central government will retain control over foreign policy, defence, monetary affairs, international air and sea ports, national radio and television and immigration.

The government had earlier wanted to discuss the peace proposals with the LTTE but the militant group pulled out of six months of peace talks and resumed its guerrilla campaign on April 19.

The main opposition United National Party (UNP) whose support is vital for success of the package has so far not commented on the plan. "As a responsible party we need more time to study this," UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe said.

Tamils are just under a fifth of the 17.5 million population in this Indian Ocean island republic while Moslems make up about 7.1 percent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.